

THE INDEPENDENT

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THE POWER & THE GLORY

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'We bomb now, we invade later'



Three Apache attack helicopters arriving at the military airport in Tirana, Albania, yesterday. About 24 Apache helicopters are expected to be deployed in Albania

Hektor Pustina/AP

NATO LEADERS in Washington pledged yesterday to bomb Yugoslavia until it withdrew from Kosovo, while behind the scenes preparations began for a ground invasion once the risk of allied casualties looks minimal.

The main concern of the alliance is whether and when to launch a ground assault if President Slobodan Milosevic continues to resist. A ground assault after weeks of air campaigns is being pushed by Britain, and will dominate the informal discussions by Nato leaders over the next two days.

Another dispute was brewing about the overnight missile attack on one of President Milosevic's residences, with the Pentagon insisting that the building was equipped with

BY COLIN BROWN AND MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

command and control facilities and therefore a military target, and Yugoslavia condemning the attack as an assassination attempt. A United States presidential order forbids the assassination of foreign leaders.

Plans for a ground assault on Kosovo solidified yesterday, with Britain and France cooing a reluctant President Bill Clinton into tougher action involving a large-scale expeditionary force once Serbia's defences in Kosovo have been worn down.

This was one of the main topics of discussion by President Clinton and Tony Blair at a working dinner at the White

House on Wednesday evening. According to senior sources with Mr Blair in Washington, Nato could launch an attack on Serb forces in Kosovo in four to five weeks. A British diplomatic source said: "It will take four to five weeks, then we will see where we are."

The Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, who is also in Washington for the Nato summit, said the alliance was committed to sending ground troops into Kosovo, it was just a question of the stage at which they were deployed.

Mr Blair was the first foreign leader to arrive for the Nato 50th anniversary summit, which opens in Washington today. Sources close to Mr Blair denied the US President had to

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be persuaded of the need to send in ground forces when a Serb retreat looks imminent. "He did not need persuading," the source said.

A consensus of Nato leaders favours continuing the air campaign with no compromise. But views diverge on the need to deploy ground forces in conditions that could expose them to combat. "We are not going to commit ground forces in a hostile

environment, nor do we need to. Time is our greatest ally," the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said.

Speaking yesterday after meeting Mr Cook, the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said US policy on ground troops had not changed. "We are confident a sustained and relentless air campaign can achieve our objectives. We do not favour deployment of

ground forces into a hostile environment," she said.

Pentagon spokesmen insisted the air operation was succeeding. Rear Admiral Thomas Wilson, director of intelligence at the Pentagon, said all four main lines of communication linking Kosovo with the north had been hit. He said the campaign had wrecked up to 30 per cent of Yugoslavia's surface-to-air missile capability and destroyed 35 ground attack aircraft, reducing Belgrade's ability to use planes in Kosovo by about 50 per cent.

Up to 20 per cent of Serbian tank forces had been "taken out" in Kosovo, the Kosovo Liberation Army was "resurgent" and the desertion rate from Serbian forces in Kosovo was growing.

Of the overnight attack on Mr Milosevic's residence in Belgrade's wealthy Dedinje district, a Pentagon spokesman said: "We are targeting the head of the military regime, trying to break the central nervous system."

While there appeared to be a split between the British and US willingness to contemplate ground troops, it was unclear how far it was dictated by pressure from domestic opinion.

Downing Street stipulated that Serb troops ought to "crack" before a ground force went in. Ms Albright said only

that the US did not "favour" introducing ground troops into a hostile environment.

The previous day, the Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana, ordered military commanders to review plans for the possible use of ground forces.

The five key players in Nato, the US, Britain, Germany, France and Italy, have been in nightly contact to form a cohesive core at the summit and diplomats said Germany would remain committed to the campaign, in spite of misgivings by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's green coalition partners.

Paxman savages BBC over changes to news

BY JANE ROBINS Media Correspondent

JEREMY PAXMAN launched a stinging attack on the BBC's governors yesterday for drastic changes planned for *Newsnight* and the *Six O'Clock News*.

Both programmes are to be altered to meet the governors' demands for more regional coverage, especially of Scotland. But according to Mr Paxman, who presents *Newsnight*, they are "the worst idea they could possibly have come up with as a solution to a political problem".

His colleague Kirsty Wark also came out strongly against the proposal to introduce opt-outs to Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales 30 minutes into *Newsnight*'s 45-minute slot. "It is essential that BBC Scotland has its own late-night programme," she said yesterday, "but I am absolutely against the



dismantling of *Newsnight*." Other BBC insiders criticised the governors for interfering so drastically with the content of the two programmes. "Constitutionally, they really should not be doing this," said a BBC manager, "and not nearly enough attention has been paid to their interference."

The changes to the *Six O'Clock News* were detailed

earlier this week. The programme will include opt-outs to the national regions. "It's a dog's breakfast and does nothing to satisfy BBC Scotland's demands for its own Scottish Six," according to a journalist in the BBC Scotland newsroom.

The interference with *Newsnight* is seen as an equally serious threat. BBC insiders are concerned that it will "meddle with the fabric of the programme". They say it will drastically curtail its ability to run interviews at length at the last minute, or to make longer reports. The general view is that "it shows a complete lack of understanding of *Newsnight* and the way it works".

Current negotiations include a proposal for Wales and Northern Ireland to opt out of the main programme for six and a half minutes, and then opt back in again—a procedure that producers regard as a nightmare to implement.

'Trenchcoat gang' had plan to blow up school

THE INVESTIGATION into the Colorado school shooting took a new twist yesterday when police stumbled upon at least two huge bombs in the kitchen of Columbine High School, suggesting that more than two students were involved and there might have been a plan to blow up the whole school.

Meanwhile, further indications are emerging that the rampage might have been anticipated. According to one classmate, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the two students who killed 12 of their classmates and a teacher before turning their guns on themselves, made a video for school last autumn in which they played gunmen firing weapons in the school and killing sports players, in an eerie foreshadowing of what happened on Tuesday. "It was disturbing to everyone who saw it," Chris Reilly said.

The story was not confirmed by teachers at the school, and education officials made no comment. Initial reports suggested that the explosive devices were 30-gallon propane tanks with triggers taped to them. Investigation teams hurried out of the high school, in Littleton, Denver, to allow bomb squads to return and neutralise the devices.

John Stone, the sheriff of Jefferson County responsible for law enforcement at the school, said investigators were searching for possible accomplices of Harris and Klebold. "I can't believe they were capable of doing this by themselves," he said after briefing the US Attorney General, Janet Reno, who was in Littleton. It was not clear if the propane tanks were already in the school, or if they were

brought in by the attackers. It was also not clear why bomb squads had not discovered the devices in their search of the school premises in the 18 hours after the shooting ended.

Sheriff Stone said there were no leads on establishing a broader conspiracy, but a friend of Harris and Klebold told a television station he thought authorities were interested in at least one fellow member of the "Trenchcoat Mafia", the school clique fascinated by guns, violence and death.

Pat McDuffee said he thought the police were pursuing Chris Morrison, who he described as the most eccentric of the Trenchcoat group. He also said that the whole group was familiar with weapons and explosives.

Four students were detained after the shooting, but were released after questioning. There have been no arrests.

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TODAY'S TELEVISION BACK PAGE

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Belgium	BE\$2.00	Italy	IT\$2.00
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Czech Republic	CZ\$2.00	Malta	MT\$0.60
Denmark	DK\$2.00	Netherlands	NL\$2.00
France	FR\$2.00	Poland	PL\$2.00
Germany	DM\$2.00	Portugal	PT\$2.00
Greece	GR\$2.00	Spain	ES\$2.00
Hungary	HUF\$2.00	Sweden	SE\$2.00
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"For the sake of its credibility, alone, Nato was forced to intervene against mass deportations and mass murder in Kosovo"
Gerhard Schröder,
German Chancellor

BY RICHARD LLOYD PAREY in Malina Mala

Refugees waiting at the Blace border crossing for permission to enter Macedonia. The Serbs are believed to be holding thousands more *Reuters*

Kosovar political leaders and professional are being identified in the camps and consulted about plans for reconstructing Kosovan government and society once the Serb forces have been driven out by Nato, the Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, said yesterday.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

Key
 Below 0°C
 0-10°C
 11-20°C
 21-30°C
 Over 30°C

Isobars: air pressure in millibars
 — Warm front
 — Cold front
 — Occluded front

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

KEY
 — 1024 —

Isobars: air pressure in millibars
 — Warm front
 — Cold front
 — Occluded front

Low U will move north-east while slowly filling. Low V will move eastwards and will deepen further. Low S will be stationary while filling.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

KEY
 — 1024 —

Isobars: air pressure in millibars
 — Warm front
 — Cold front
 — Occluded front

Low U will move north-east while slowly filling. Low V will move eastwards and will deepen further. Low S will be stationary while filling.

City	Temp (°C)	City	Temp (°C)	City	Temp (°C)	City	Temp (°C)
Adelaide	17.63	Chicago	14.57	Kuala Lumpur	33.91	Port Stanley	12.54
Algiers	23.73	Christchurch	14.57	La Paz	12.54	Prague	15.59
Almaty	25.77	Cologne	14.57	Lagos	28.82	Quebec	13.25
Amman	12.54	Copenhagen	9.68	Lima	24.75	Santiago	7.45
Amsterdam	7.45	Cairo	28.82	Lisbon	18.64	Shanghai	20.68
Bombay	12.54	Cebu	20.68	Los Angeles	18.64	Singapore	23.64
Buenos Aires	20.68	Dakar	23.73	Manila	16.61	Sydney	13.79

Readers donate over £600,000

READERS ARE encouraged to continue to send in contributions to *The Independent's* appeal to help the refugees of Kosovo after aid agencies' warnings about the worsening conditions.

The total raised by *The Independent's* appeal is now more than £610,000 but more is needed. "Donations are still coming in but at a slower rate than before," warns a spokesman for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

The committee is co-ordinating a series of appeals for the refugees of Kosovo, including that of *The Independent*.

The most serious problems involve conditions for local communities in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro who are hosting Kosovo refugees. More than

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Send a cheque or postal order to:


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Kosovo Appeal**
Disasters Emergency Committee,
PO Box 2710
London W1A 5AD

Cheques payable to:

KOSOVO APPEAL

Call: 0950 22 22 33 to make a telephoned credit card donation

600,000 have fled Kosovo and a large proportion of them are living with host families or in local community buildings. Increasingly common are reports of families of ten allowing 40 refugees or more to live in their two-room house.


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15 Uzicka Street: home to Tito and Milosevic, 'legitimate' target for Nato

TARGETS

BY ROBERT FISK
in Belgrade

SO NOW it's a "command and control centre" is it? When I last walked through the door of Number 15 Uzicka Street - targeted by Nato in the early hours of yesterday morning - it contained a large desk, 14,000 books, some fine paintings by Sava Jovanovic and a brace of Persian carpets. It must have looked much the same when Her Majesty the Queen - our very own Elizabeth II - visited President Tito here.

And as it did when Winston Churchill and his son Randolph dropped by to see the Grand Old Man of Yugoslavia. Or when Nixon came to visit. And Lord Mountbatten. And U Thant, the former United Nations leader, and Nehru and Indira Gandhi and the queens of Holland, Belgium and the Netherlands.

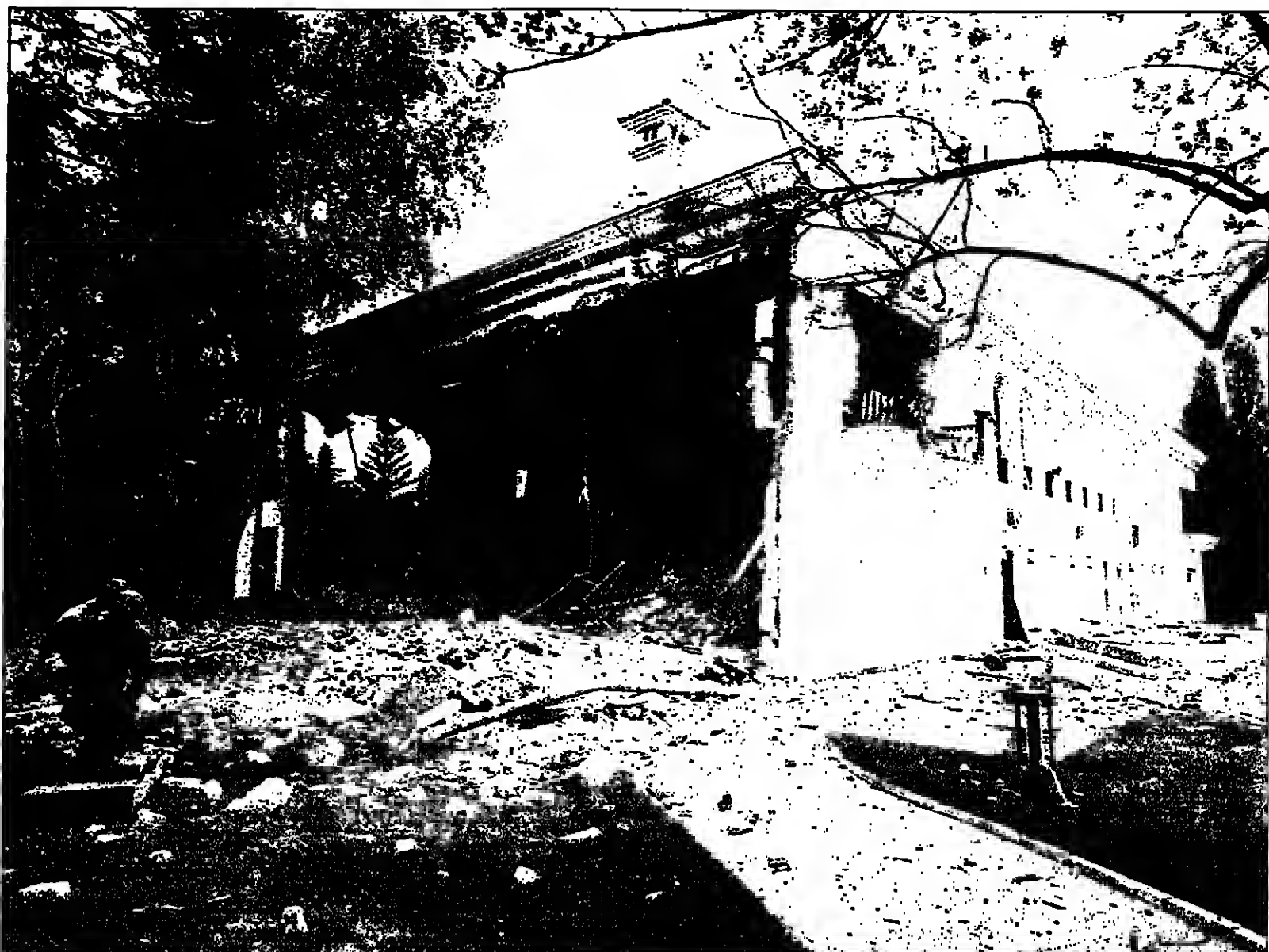
The only thing which they assuredly were not shown - and to which even *The Independent's* correspondent was refused admission to seven years ago - was Tito's "Room of Ladies", containing a series of nude statues and portraits of reclining girls which reflected the interests of the priapic old dictator.

Into this extraordinary shrine, we are now told, the Yugoslav regime had installed a command and control centre. Was this computerised "nerve centre" in the bedroom of the two-storey colonaded villa? Or next to the library where the works of Hegel nestled beside volumes of partisan-brigade history? Or in the old cinema where Tito enjoyed watching Richard Burton playing the role of - yes - Marshal Tito? Or near the flocks of wild birds shot by Tito and religiously stuffed for posterity? Or in the Room of Ladies? Or alongside the old boy's desk, left as it was when Yugoslavia's Titan left work for the last time for hospital and death?

Inevitably, President Slobodan Milosevic and his family had moved into Tito's former residence a couple of years



Was this really a Yugoslav 'command and control centre', or was the former home of President Tito (bottom left) destroyed in attempt of the life of Milosevic (top) AP



coffee service from Saddam Hussein.

"They're getting rid of things so fast these days," the plump and elderly retainer had puffed as we entered the residence seven years ago. "Who knows what they will close next? We don't even know how long this place will last. If Tito was alive today, he would not have believed what has happened." Too true, I muttered to myself yesterday as I puffed my own way up the hill in the rain towards the old Tito museum that lies behind No 15.

The gardens were overgrown. The wet grass was conquering the concrete floor of the fountain. Graffiti was splashed over park benches and walls. At the door of the museum, I was met by a Serb policeman. "I am sorry, the museum is closed," he said. And he shook his head in a weary, amused way when I asked if there was any chance of taking a look at what was left of No 15. If I wanted to find the secretary who had shown me round all those years ago, he added, I would have to remember her name and apply in writing to the authorities. Khaki figures in rain capes watched me from the trees.

The only head of state to be wounded in action during the Second World War was buried close to his residence and I asked the Serb policeman if I could take a peek at Tito's tomb, just in case the concrete slah had cracked as the dictator - 19 years dead - turned in his grave. The policeman shook his head with a smile.

Nor could I find out if another tomb, the grave of Tito's young partisan mistress that lay in the garden of No 15, survived the Nato bombing. For yesterday, the old man's home was as broken as his dreams of brotherhood and unity. Heaven knows what happened to Nasser's ashtray. Or Saddam Hussein's coffee service. What on earth would Tito have made of Mr Bacon's revelation of a "command and control centre"? Best not to imagine. Another army, half a century past, had tried to assassinate Tito. And the clock stopped here a long time ago.

ago. And equally inevitably, Nato attacked it. The laser-guided bomb, dropped yesterday from a lone aircraft high over Belgrade, exploded in the bedroom.

And a few hours later, there was Ken Bacon in the Pentagon, wearing his familiar spokesman's bow-tie, telling us it was "a command and control centre". I can believe almost anything of this war I have no doubt that Nato hates Mr Milosevic. I can see why. But this looked to me very much like an

assassination attempt on a head of state.

Normally both Mr Milosevic and his wife, Mira Markovic - the professor of Marxism who wrote a very angry letter to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, on Sunday - and their children, Marija and Marko, lived here, along with a one-and-a-half-year-old grandson, also Marko. But they were wise enough to stay away on Wednesday night; after all, Nato had fired cruise missiles into the headquarters of both Mr

Milosevic's and Ms Markovic's political parties a few hours earlier. It clearly wasn't a good night to spend in the old Tito villa, renovated in somewhat spectacular style by the Yugoslav President and his wife.

No one I spoke to yesterday knew what Mr Milosevic did with Tito's desk or with the massive volume of snapshots I found in the house seven years ago with the soporific title *National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia*. Given the couple's

admiration for Tito, they must have been kept. But where? In the basement? And what happened to Sava Jovanovic's *Portrait of a Girl* which once stared wistfully down on the library? Was it shredded by the bomb?

It was a strange, pompous, old house, built in the fashionable middle-class 1930s suburb of Dedinje, with big, square lawns and straight military paths through the trees. You could see how it appealed to General Lohr, commanding of

ficer of the Wehrmacht's Army Group E, who moved in during Germany's wartime occupation (one of Lohr's aides being a priggish young intelligence officer from Austria, a certain Oberleutnant Kurt Waldheim who went on to become president of Austria in the 1980s.) And how it must have appealed to Tito when he moved in after the war.

One of his former secretaries had shown me round 15 Uzicka Street. By Tito's desk, the hands of a clock were

stopped at the minute of his death. But already, the government had been deconstructing the Tito myth, turning his 25 May Museum into an exhibition of Serbian military history with frightful photographs of old Serbian women being hanged by a grinning rabble of Austrian and Bulgarian soldiery. Dust sheets half covered the junk of admiration which Tito had collected: the hunting rifles from Churchill, Brezhnev and Zhukov, the diamond-studded ash-tray from Nasser, the

Air strikes bring Danube to a halt

ECONOMIC DAMAGE

BY ADAM LEBOR in Budapest

BLOCKED BY rubble and its bridges destroyed by Nato jets, Serbia's stretch of the Blue Danube is no longer the romantic waterway immortalised by Johann Strauss.

International shipping along Europe's main waterway has halted, as boats are unable to navigate past the Serbian town of Novi Sad. Piles of debris lie underwater after Nato air strikes destroyed the city's three Danube bridges.

Even if Nato strikes against Serbia stop in the near future, international river traffic on the Danube is unlikely to resume this year, said Peter Balas, the deputy state secretary at the Hungarian Economics Ministry. In a normal

year, about 10 millions tons of freight travels along the river through Yugoslavia, but nothing is moving now.

The blocked Danube is an economic disaster for Europe's shipping companies, and could cause knock-on effects on the countries it flows through if the conflict continues. Some are already preparing to sack workers now that the great river is un navigable. "Experts estimate that even if the conflict is settled soon, shipping on the Danube could not be revived this year," said Mr Balas.

Nato destroyed the first bridge at Novi Sad, 45 miles north of Belgrade, on 1 April, early on in its campaign against Serbia. The city's last bridge

was hit on Wednesday. Earlier Nato hit the bridge at Smederevo, east of Belgrade.

The destruction of the bridges at Novi Sad has left dozens of ships and tons of freight trapped on the river, causing a region-wide blockade. In Hungary, goods have been loaded on to trains instead but in Romania 60 ships bound for Austria, Germany and Hungary remain blocked at ports on the Yugoslav border.

At the same time there are fears that the Nato bombardment of petro-chemical factories in Serbia could trigger an environmental catastrophe. Serb officials claimed that the bombing of the Pancevo refinery, northeast of Belgrade, was



A cruise missile hitting a bridge over the Danube at Novi Sad yesterday AP

causing a cross-border environmental hazard that could spread along the entire length of the Danube.

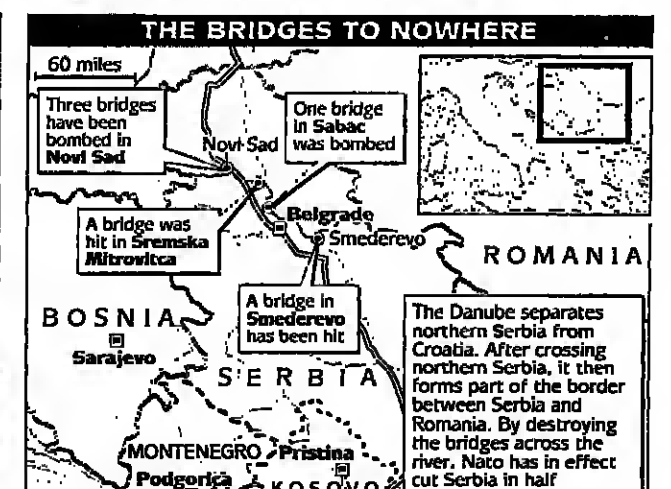
But the blocking of the Danube has more than economic and environmental implications. The Danube is a living symbol of the continent, pre-dating and outlasting the empires, ideologies and ruling armies that have stomped across its banks, whether Roman, Magyar, Turkish, Nazi or Communist. At 1,767 miles

long, the Danube is second only to the Volga among European rivers. Eulogised in countless songs and poems, the river starts in Germany, and then cuts through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary down to Serbia, and then through Romania to the Black Sea, binding the continent together and linking Western and Central Europe with the Balkans.

In Vienna it is tucked away in a drab suburb, but in the Slovak capital of Bratislava it

widens out, thundering underneath the ugly Communist-era bridge commemorating the anti-Nazi Slovak National Uprising in 1944. But it is perhaps in Budapest, a city built on its banks, that it reaches its most panoramic sweep, highlighted by the series of graceful bridges that arch over its rushing waters.

Novi Sad, the northern Serbian city that has now become one of Nato's main targets, was once an important Haps-



burg river post and is still retains the architectural grandeur of the Austro-Hungarian era. Capital of the region known as Vojvodina, the cosmopolitan city is home to many ethnic minorities such as Hungarians, Czechs and Romanians. Its bridges symbolise the city's place as Catholic Europe's gateway to the Orthodox lands of the Balkans.

Bridges have a special resonance here. The Nobel prize winning Yugoslav novelist Ivo

Andric's best known work is entitled "Bridge on the Drina", a hymn to the multi-ethnic tolerance that once characterised Bosnia, and whose last vestiges live on - just - in Vojvodina.

In Novi Sad they recite an old poem about the city's former glory days: "The glorious town, it lies by hill and valley, The bridge divides the Danube, boats float down." But it will be a long time now before the hosts float down the Danube through Novi Sad again.

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'Teachers are on a witch hunt'

Safer test for Down's on way

BY MAXINE FRITH

ONE OF the "holy grails of medicine" - a non-invasive blood test for abnormalities in an unborn child that does not carry the risk of miscarriage - is close to being discovered, scientists said yesterday.

Currently the only way to detect chromosome and genetic abnormalities like Down's syndrome is to perform procedures such as amniocentesis, which involves placing a needle in the womb and carries a miscarriage risk of up to 2 per cent. Many women refuse to have the test because of the risk.

The new research by Dr Irene Roberts and a team of scientists at Imperial College, London, involves isolating the cells in a woman's bloodstream that come from her unborn baby, and expanding their numbers sufficiently for tests to be performed. Dr Roberts told a London conference on pregnancy and childbirth: "Development of a non-invasive test for pre-natal diagnosis with equivalent accuracy to current invasive procedures but without any risk of foetal loss is one of the holy grails of fetal medicine ... These potentially exciting experiments are now under way."

A spokesman for the National Childbirth Trust said: "The prospect of this test ... is something we would welcome with open arms."

CHRIS WOODHEAD hit back at teachers' unions last night, claiming they had orchestrated a campaign for his removal since he was appointed the Chief Inspector of Schools.

His blunt comments came as head teachers took the unprecedented step of voting to demand the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) launch a criminal investigation into claims that Mr Woodhead lied on oath.

Mr Woodhead has faced constant criticism - and demands for his sacking - since *The Independent* revealed that he had told a student audience that relationships between sixth-formers and teachers could be "educative and experiential".

The spotlight then fell on Mr Woodhead's relationship with a young woman, Amanda Johnston, with claims that they started their affair while she was a sixth-former.

Mr Woodhead has signed an affidavit saying that they started a nine-year affair after they both left the Gordano school in Bristol, where he was a teacher, in the Seventies.

Last night Mr Woodhead, in his frankest comments since the row erupted, said: "If your critics cannot fault the logic of your argument, they will attack your reputation."

"The teacher unions have been trying to get rid of me since I was appointed. The NAST's action today is their latest attempt."

"No doubt it will serve to generate more columns of newspaper and minutes of airtime. So be it."

BY BEN RUSSELL
AND GARY FINN

"There is nothing I can do to prevent these attempts to distract me from my job as Chief Inspector. As far as I am concerned, it is business as usual."

Speaking in York before the annual conference of the Independent Schools' Association, Mr Woodhead added: "I shall, that is, continue to run Ofsted, support the Secretary of State for Education in his crusade to raise educational standards, and do everything that I can to ensure every child in this country receives the education he or she deserves."

His attacked co-incided with the decision last night by the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) to call formally for a criminal investigation. David Hart, NAHT general secretary, said it was essential to "clear up question-marks" over allegations that Mr Woodhead had an affair with a pupil.

Cathy Woodhead has claimed that her ex-husband admitted the affair at the time. Former colleagues have said the relationship was common knowledge at the school.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, told the House of Commons last week that the dossier contained nothing to disprove Mr Woodhead's sworn statement.

Mr Hart accused the Government of washing its hands of the issue, but rejected Mr Woodhead's assertions that the union's action was conducting a witch hunt.

He asked his union's na-



Mr Woodhead addressing a conference last night: 'The unions have been trying to oust me since I was appointed'

Peter Macdiarmid

tional ruling council to back his call for police intervention. His stance has already provoked disquiet among some head teachers. Up to 40 have threatened to leave the association over the issue.

After last night's decision to

back his call, Mr Hart said: "I'm quite confident evidence is available that demonstrates that Chris Woodhead's side of the story has at least to be challenged and put to the test."

"If David Blunkett is unwilling to do this then we have no

option but to go to the DPP." More criticism of the head teachers followed yesterday from Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the second-largest teaching union, the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers.

He said: "I'm counselling them to be very cautious; they may be exceeding their brief. They are setting a very dangerous precedent and stepping too wide. What the Government should do is set up a proper, independent inquiry."

Mr Hart said: "My organisation does not pursue witch-hunts. We only act responsibly and we do it where we think there is a case to undertake." When told of the NAHT's decision, Mr Woodhead said: "I have nothing to say at all."

Prescott hits out at Tory treasurer

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT launched a stinging attack yesterday on the "flag of convenience" shipping register of the central American state of Belize, which is controlled by Michael Ashcroft, the Conservative Party treasurer and multi-millionaire.

Although he did not name Mr Ashcroft in speech to the United Nations in New York, the Deputy Prime Minister's fierce criticisms will add to the controversy surrounding William Hague's money man, who lives in Florida for much of the year.

Mr Ashcroft, 52, who is said to be Britain's 24th richest person and has made big donations to Tory coffers, holds joint British and Belizean nationality. His company, Belize International Services, is controller of the Belize shipping register.

The 911 vessels on it, which fly the Belize flag but are owned by many countries, are on average 27 years old. Increasingly they are being criticised for slack safety standards and, more recently, pirate fishing activities. By being on the Belize register they escape supervision and control.

At a meeting yesterday of the UN's Commission on Sustainable Development, its principal environmental policy-making



John Prescott: Criticised flags of convenience

forum, Mr Prescott said Belize-registered vessels had the worst record in Europe, America and Canada for ships detained as unseaworthy after inspections by port officials.

And he referred to a new report by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and Greenpeace, which says that Belize-registered vessels are now some of the worst offenders in illegal fishing in the Antarctic. "These modern-day buccaneers must not be allowed to plunder our seas for profit at the direct expense of seafarers' lives, and of the environment," he said.

Mr Prescott, himself a former merchant seaman, told UN delegates in New York: "All my life as a seafarer and a politician, I have campaigned

against the abuse of flags of convenience, which have cost thousands of seafarers' lives."

Their use was now affecting the environment as well, he said, adding: "I particularly deplore the reckless illegal fishing under flags of convenience that we have seen threatening the stocks of toothfish in the Antarctic, with consequences for birdlife, including the wandering albatross."

Belize-registered trawlers have been blamed for illegal overfishing of the Patagonian toothfish, an important species which some experts fear may be being driven to extinction.

Last night Greenpeace and the ITF sent a letter to Mr Hague urging him to raise with Mr Ashcroft the issue of the "shoddy operation" of the Belize shipping register which, they said, had already cost lives. Mr Ashcroft should ensure that the register complies with international law, they said.

Simon Reddy, Greenpeace's oceans political adviser, said last night: "It is simply not acceptable that such a senior figure in a major British political party should be presiding over a shipping register which is clearly abusing international obligations on safety and the environment."

"We call on Mr Hague to bring Mr Ashcroft into line."

Scientists cast doubt on 'gay gene' theory

ONE OF the highest studies to investigate the genetic cause of homosexuality has failed to support research published six years ago suggesting the existence of a "gay gene".

A team of scientists led by Dean Hamer, an American AIDS researcher, caused a furore in 1993 when it reported the results of a study purporting to find a genetic trait linked to homosexuality.

Dr Hamer, a scientist at the US National Cancer Institute in Washington, studied the family histories of gay men and used blood tests to find evidence of a gene inherited from mothers which he said could predispose males to homosexuality.

Dr Hamer, who is homosexual, said at the time: "Our research implies that being gay or straight relies to some extent on a genetic predisposition. We can only speculate on what the gene does. Once we have the gene, we'll be able to understand it."

However, several years of re-

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

search aimed at isolating the gene proved fruitless. Now, a second team of scientists has cast doubt on the evidence published by Dr Hamer six years ago.

George Rice and George Ebers of the University of Western Ontario in Canada studied 148 families with two gay sons, 34 families with three gay sons and two families with four.

Dr Hamer investigated the family history of a smaller sample of 76 gay men and 40 pairs of gay brothers.

Dr Rice's group used sophisticated genetic tests to analyse the same region of the X chromosome - which men inherit only from their mothers - where Dr Hamer claimed to have found a genetic "marker" for homosexuality.

The Canadian group reports in the journal *Science* that it failed to find a link between this marker and homosexuality,

which should have emerged because their study was bigger than Dr Hamer's.

"It is unclear why our results are so discrepant from Hamer's original study. Because our study was larger than that of Hamer, we certainly had adequate power to detect a genetic effect as large as was reported in that study," the Canadian scientists report.

"None the less, our data do not support the presence of a gene of large effect influencing sexual orientation."

The scientists said that they do not dismiss the possibility of another gay gene being present and recommended that studies should continue to try to find it.

The gay gene received a mixed reaction when it was announced. In the US, gay groups said that it showed homosexuality was a normal, biological condition, but gay groups in Britain expressed concern that it might be used by some people to abort fetuses found to be carrying the gene.

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Judge refuses to rule in case of dying boy

A MOTHER lost her legal battle yesterday for a declaration that doctors had no right to go against her wishes by refusing her severely disabled child potentially life-saving treatment without first obtaining the backing of the courts.

A judge said the "blunt tool" of judicial review was not the right mechanism for dealing with such a sensitive problem and that any ruling risked unduly restricting doctors faced with a rapidly changing clinical position.

Carol Glass and her family were involved in an incident with doctors and police at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth last October after 15 relatives fought to resuscitate her 12-year-old son, David, who was close to death.

The doctors said he should have been allowed to die with dignity. However, David recovered from his ordeal and returned home.

The case is one of the worst examples of the breakdown of communication between doctors and patients and the hospital trust was criticised by the British Medical Association yesterday for acting without court backing. In a statement

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH
AND JEREMY LAURANCE



David Glass: Legal ruling would be a 'blunt tool'

the BMA said decisions about when to withdraw treatment for dying children were among the most difficult faced by doctors and parents and every effort should be made to achieve consensus. Where this was impossible, further advice, including reference to the court, should be sought.

Dr Michael Wilks, the chairman of the BMA's ethics committee, said: "There does seem

to have been a significant degree of avoidable communication difficulty ... further efforts could probably have been made."

At the High Court in London, Mrs Glass's lawyers said the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust had acted unlawfully when it decided her brain-damaged child should be allowed to die with dignity and to administer the painkiller diamorphine.

Mrs Glass asked the court to declare that the trust could not act contrary to her wishes and unilaterally decide to "allow nature to take its course", and that it was bound by law to obtain guidance from the courts.

But Mr Justice Scott Baker said that since David was no longer a patient the court should not intervene. In a clear signal that parents cannot overrule the decisions of doctors, he added: "It would be very difficult to frame any declaration in any meaningful terms in a hypothetical situation which did not unnecessarily restrict the proper treatment by the doctors in an ongoing and developing matter."

Without blaming either side,



Carol Glass at the High Court in London yesterday. 'I will never let this matter drop,' she said James Horton

he said it was regrettable that the issue had not been taken to the Family Division of the High Court at the time to obtain a ruling as to what was in David's best interests.

He said David would receive any future treatment at Southampton General Hospital

and if difficulties arose in the future, it would be "at least desirable" that the matter be referred to the High Court's Family Division "before the situation becomes acute."

"It is a very sad case and no one who had heard the facts and background could doubt

the devoted care of the Glass family for David," he said.

"I expressly make no findings or observations about where any fault lies for the events that occurred last October, nor am I in any position to express any view about any aspect of the doctors' clinical judgement." He refused leave to appeal.

After the hearing Mrs Glass, 37, said she was disappointed by the judge's decision. "I will never let this matter drop until someone is prepared to make a decision on how far doctors can go," she said.

Lord Ahmed of Rotherham, a magistrate, said there was a distinction between understanding a person's circumstances and siding with them.

Case halted by racial worries

BY ROBERT VERKHAIR
Legal Affairs Correspondent
AND FAISAL BODI

A PAKISTANI magistrate has withdrawn from a case because he could not trust himself to decide between a white couple and a member of his own ethnic group.

The decision has caused consternation within the legal profession because if it is followed to its logical conclusion no judge or magistrate would be able to hear a case where the defendant was of the same race.

The Birmingham magistrate, Chaudhry Rashid, told a 24-year-old Pakistani accused of breaching his bail that he did not feel he could deliver an impartial verdict where the complaint had been brought by a white couple and the police had been accused of bringing the prosecution because of racist reasons.

Speaking after the case last Saturday, Mr Rashid said: "As a result of some of things that were said, I thought it was in everyone's interest if I did not adjudicate." The defendant has subsequently been tried by a white magistrate and found not guilty.

Lord Ahmed of Rotherham, a magistrate, said there was a distinction between understanding a person's circumstances and siding with them.

MP 'was a victim of faction-fighting'

THE LORD Chief Justice has described the local Labour Party in Newark as "riven by personal animosity" and suggested that the faction-fighting led to the conviction of the former MP Fiona Jones.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill made his remarks yesterday when the Court of Appeal published his reasons for quashing the conviction of Mrs Jones and her agent, Des Whicher, for making a false declaration of her expenses at the 1997 general election.

Mrs Jones' seat was declared vacant and she was ordered to do 100 hours of community service. But last week she won her appeal against the conviction and the High Court will rule next week whether she can resume her House of Commons seat or order a by-election to be held to fill the vacancy.

Her allies have claimed that her enemies in the Newark constituency party leaked information about her campaign finances to the Liberal Democrats, which led to the official complaint against her.

Yesterday Lord Bingham, dismissing allegations about Mr Whicher's use of a Ford Sierra car during the campaign, said: "There was evidence before the jury directly impugning Mr Whicher's honesty, but the evidence came from Mrs Jones' opponents in a party riven by personal animosity, and there were substantial grounds for viewing

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor



Fiona Jones: Hoping to return to the Commons

this evidence (all of which was strongly challenged) with grave scepticism."

The comments were embarrassing for Labour, but officials pointed out that the party's ruling National Executive Committee had already acted by suspending the Newark party.

Lord Bingham, sitting with Mr Justice Moses and Mr Justice Penny-Davey, said that neither of the two main grounds on which the prosecution had relied was capable of supporting a conviction.

The maximum for election expenses in Newark was set at £8,905, he said, while Mrs Jones, according to the prosecution's opening, had incurred

expenses of just under £22,000. The Lord Chief Justice said there was no simple and decisive test to determine whether an expense was or was not an election expense within the 1983 Representation of the People Act. But there were some expenses about which "reasonable people", applying themselves to the question in all good faith, could reach different conclusions.

Referring to criticism over office expenses, Lord Bingham said the Neil Committee on standards in public life had made clear this was "a field in which misunderstanding is rife. If the jury convicted, or may have convicted, on this ground, we consider the convictions unsafe."

Mrs Jones and Mr Whicher were awarded their costs. The former MP smiled as her solicitor, Gerald Shamash, said he expected her future to be resolved within days.

"There's been an application made by the Attorney General on behalf of the Speaker for a positive declaration that Mrs Jones be entitled to take her seat," he said.

"The Attorney General is saying she should be there, and we'll be supporting that application."

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, has told MPs that it is "for the courts and not for the House to interpret the law", and wants an authoritative declaration on the true construction of the Act.

IN BRIEF

Youth 'watched gang kill woman'

A TEENAGER told a murder trial yesterday how he saw an 18-year-old woman being tortured to death by a gang of five. Andrew Gregory, 18, saw Angela Pearce receive fatal injuries while she was held in a flat, Leeds Crown Court heard. The hearing continues today.

Dormouse stamp tops Diana's

A ROYAL Mail stamp featuring the endangered dormouse has topped a poll of collectors' favourites. Collectors around the world voted the 20p stamp as their favourite special British stamp issued last year. A 20p stamp featuring Diana, Princess of Wales was fourth on the list.

Police chief faces sanctions

A SENIOR police officer who was suspended after a raid in Hastings in which an unarmed man was shot dead is facing disciplinary proceedings. Sussex Police Authority also decided yesterday to prolong the suspension of Deputy Chief Constable Mark Jordan.

100-year-old's pension restored

THE IRISH government has overruled the wrongful dismissal of a man who was sacked from the police force in 1928. One-hundred-year-old William Geary, who lives in the US, has also had his full pension rights restored.

Big Lego pig stolen from toy shop

A LIFE-SIZED Lego model of a pig has been stolen from outside a toy shop, police said yesterday. Thieves also made off with a life-sized model pirate and a Cornish flag, also made of Lego, from the shop in Penryn, Cornwall.

GP's drug dose could have killed

BY PAUL WATSON

A HOME Office pathologist told jurors yesterday in the trial of a GP accused of murdering an 85-year-old patient that levels of morphine found in the pensioner's body were high enough to have killed "a fit and healthy young man".

Dr James Suter was giving evidence on the sixth day of the trial at Newcastle Crown Court of Dr David Moor, who denies murdering George Liddell on 19 July 1997 by injecting him with diamorphine. Dr Moor was attending Mr Liddell, who had left hospital after surgery for bowel cancer.

Dr Suter, who did a post-mortem examination of Mr Liddell, said: "The overdose could have proved fatal in a fit and healthy young person lacking ... the smaller diseases suffered by the deceased." The trial continues today.

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Coming soon: Shakespeare in Love, The Sequel

BY DAVID LISTER
Media and Culture Editor

THE OLDEST adage in Hollywood still rings true. If it works, make a sequel, or at least a copy. After the success of *Shakespeare in Love*, a follow-up is now under consideration.

Meanwhile, every producer worth his salt is starting to see pound and dollar signs in lambic pentameters. One can almost imagine the "pitches" taking place from scriptwriters and producers to studio chiefs. But why fantasise? The actual Shakespearean films on their way to our cinemas include concepts more bizarre than any satirist could imagine.

With *Othello* apparently not crisp enough a title, we will soon see a film called *O*, which tells of a drama between two high school basketball warriors. In a new version of *Hamlet* the Prince's name is unchanged; but just about everything else will be. Ethan Hawke plays the Dane in Manhattan. And Julia Stiles is an army-boot-clad Ophelia. The action is set in the corporate



Banking on the Bard: Jessica Lange and Alan Cumming in 'Titus'. Joseph Fiennes as Shakespeare. Michelle Pfeiffer and Rupert Everett in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' Mario Tursi/Colourific



world of New York where Hamlet's mother, Gertrude, and stepfather, Claudius, are in a "Ted Turner-Jane Fonda situation", according to Hawke.

Thus, a film based on *Titus Andronicus*, starring Sir Anthony Hopkins. Jessica Lange and Alan Cumming and directed by Julie Taymor, is due to be released at the end of the year. It is set in Rome, like the original, but in case that seems too distant, Ms Taymor explains: "Titus is a great general. He could be Colin Powell

or Norman Schwarzkopf." *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with Michelle Pfeiffer, Rupert Everett and Calista Flockhart (TV's *Ally McBeal*), is set in Tuscany. The publicity handout promises: "Water nymphs and satyrs party into the night at

the fairy bars and cafés." Kenneth Branagh has just finished shooting a soog and dance version of *Love's Labour's Lost*, and will soon begin work on a film version of *Macbeth*, followed by *As You Like It*. And then there is the

biggest potential grosser of them all. The Miramax boss Harvey Weinstein is reported to be considering a sequel to *Shakespeare in Love*. Miramax would not confirm this but at last week's Baftas Mr Weinstein was seated next to

the film's star Gwyneth Paltrow and was in earnest conversation with her for most of the night. The British producer of *Shakespeare in Love*, David Farrer, was circumspect yesterday in discussing the possibility of a sequel. "Harvey

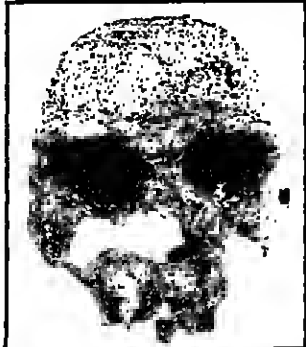
mentioned it to me at the end of shooting, but at the time it was more of a joke," he said. "I would love to work with them all again but I can't envisage a conventional sequel. The original story was stretching things a bit as it was."

'Missing link' is found in Ethiopia

ONE OF the most important discoveries in human evolution has identified a small-brained ape who walked on two legs as the strongest contender yet to be described as the "missing link".

Scientists excavating in a remote part of Ethiopia have found a new species of ape-like animal that lived about 2.5 million years ago and which could be the first human ancestor to eat meat with the help of stone tools. The international team of scientists presents details of its findings today in the journal *Science*, which trumpets the discovery as "dramatic evidence" of butchery being the oldest profession.

Anthropologists involved in



Homo erectus: Discovery could rewrite history

the study believe the ability to use tools to cut meat and crush bones could have provided the burst in nutrition necessary for early human ancestors to develop larger brains.

Tim White, a biologist at the University of California-Berkeley who led a research group, said the invention of tools to butcher animals would have led to unprecedented access to a high-fat diet of meat and marrow, necessary for brain development.

The new hominid species, called *Australopithecus garhi*, had a brain capacity of about 450 cubic centimetres - compared with the 1,400 cubic centimetres of modern humans - and lived in east Africa be-

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

tween two and three million years ago, a crucial period in evolution just before the emergence of the human family.

"You go into this period with, in essence, bipedal, big-toothed chimps and come out with meat-eating, large-brained hominids. That's a big change in a relatively short time. We'd really like to know more about what happened there," Professor White said.

The researchers made three independent discoveries outside the small village of Bouri, north-east of Addis Ababa. They found part of the skull of *A garhi*, which enabled them to classify it as a new species, and the leg and arm bones of a second individual, which lived at the same time and is likely to belong to the same species.

The third find, just a few feet away from the skeletal remains, included the bones of antelopes, horses and other animals, which showed clear signs of having been butchered with stone tools.

Some of the bones were crushed or broken off at both ends, indicating the extraction of marrow. Others had curved cut marks, including some found on an antelope's jawbone, presumably to remove the tongue.

Although stone tools from this period have been found, this is the first evidence that they were used for butchering animals, the scientists said.

"Marrow is rich in fat, and few animals other than humans and hyenas can get at it. Anthropologists have theorised that just such a dietary breakthrough allowed the dramatic increase in brain size," says an editorial in *Science*. Other scientists have proposed that the dietary breakthrough might instead have been the discovery of how to cook root vegetables, which would have provided a rich source of digestible carbohydrates.

PHILIP HENSHER



Frictionless Monet: not a painter one can have an argument with

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

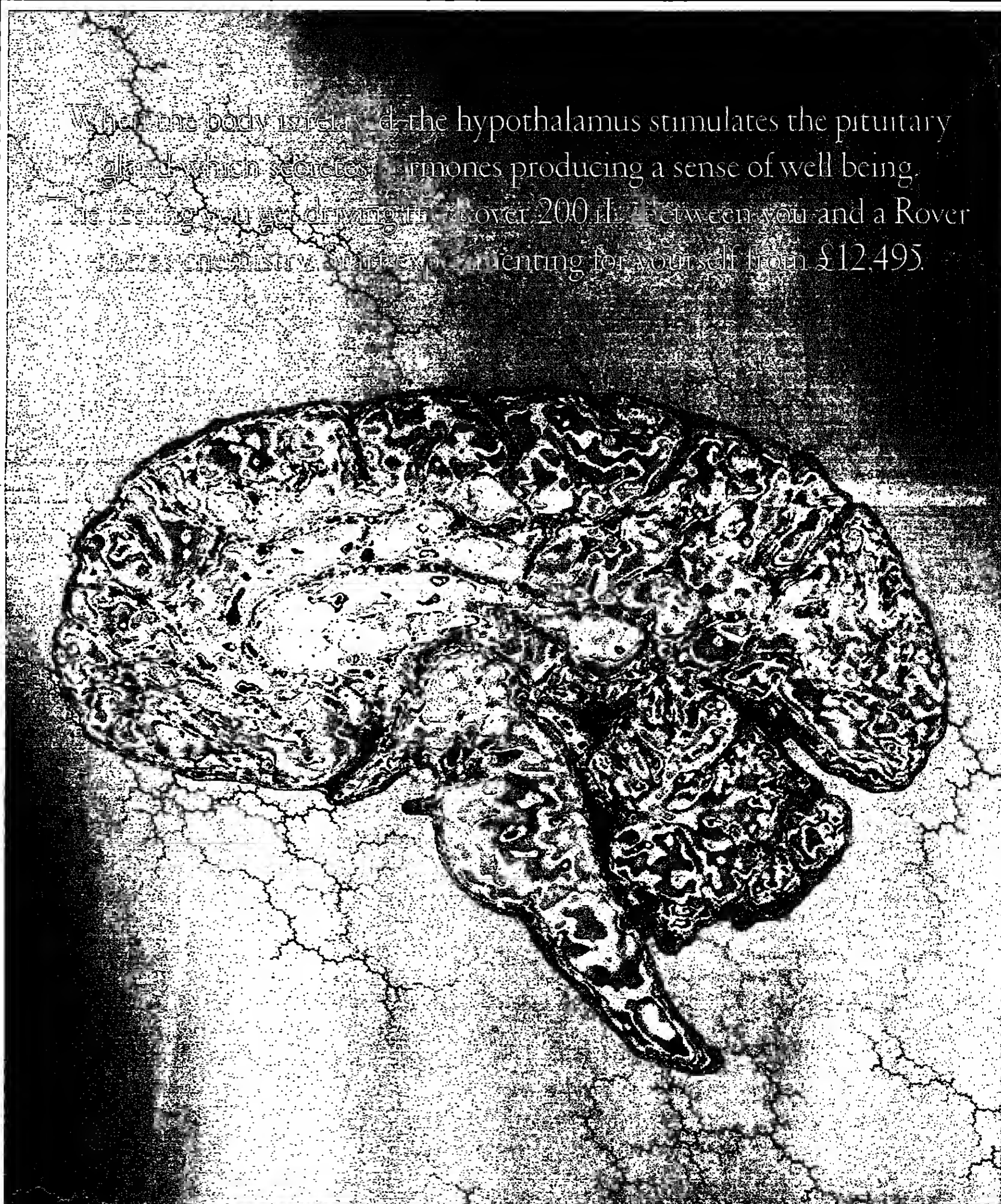
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Top-class talker loves going the extra mile for his sport

SOME OF the decisions in a sketch writer's life are no-brainers. Yesterday, for example, there was a choice between agriculture questions, in which the estimable Nick Brown would be answering questions on the Common Fisheries Policy and food hygiene standards, or the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, before whom Tony Banks, one of the House's most reliable entertainers, would be giving it large with the verbals.

I think "no-brainer" may be understating the case, actually - even the possession of a spinal cord wouldn't be a requirement to work this one out.

As I went into Committee Room 16 Mr Banks was listening attentively to a somewhat philosophical question from the Labour MP John Moxon. Which did he think the more valuable form of participation: the involvement of 33,000 runners in the London marathon or the attendance of 70,000 football fans at Chelsea? Mr Banks looked momentarily oopussed and stuttered something about it all depending on what you hoped to achieve. But after this hesitant emergence from the blocks he soon found his stride. He had certainly felt in good shape when he arrived at the finish of the London

marathon, he told MPs: "I did the whole course," he said, and, after a perfectly timed pause, he added the punchline. "I have to admit that I did it on the back of a milk float, so I was going backwards all the way." He paused again. "Not unknown in the Labour Party in the past."

Now, let's just have another look at that on the slow-motion replay, because this is a game at which Mr Banks is an international-class player. His sport is talking and his favoured distance is long. He was in his element yesterday because although the chairman occasionally murmurs dutifully about the pressure of time, select committee hear-

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

ings are actually marathons of gab compared with the carefully refereed sprints in the chamber. This is

a forum in which questioners often take three or four laps to warm up for the race ahead. Only when you hear a phrase along the lines of "but that's not the point I want to make", can you be sure that the starter's gun has actually gone off. And what characterises Mr Banks' performances in these events is that he is all acceleration and no brake. Top-class athletes rarely waste much time training to slow down or stop, and Mr Banks is no exception, even though both of these skills are rather more important to career politicians than they are to runners.

So, long after he has breathed the tape in answering a question about

government money for sports bids, he keeps on going: "There are times," he says cheerfully, "when I think the Chancellor regards it all as his own personal property - and counts it every night before he goes to bed."

A diplomatic reply about the importance of keeping Brent councilors involved in plans for the new National Stadium flows seamlessly into a faintly insulting explanation of how easily tempted they are by publicity: "We've all done it. If we get the opportunity for 15 minutes of fame we go for it," said Mr Banks. "I'd rather they had generations of credit than 15 minutes of fame."

Even the threatening flash of a press card doesn't slow him. Criticising some newspapers for undermining the 2006 World Cup bid, Mr Banks clearly decided he had not been provocative enough, hurdling a perfectly acceptable full-stop to attack the *Daily Mail* by name: "If they aren't working for the Germans," he said, "they certainly give a good impression of it."

Some observers view this excessive candour as sloppy technique, but I prefer to think of it as a kind of sporting generosity on Mr Banks' part. A joke pops into view just ahead and he can't bear not to go the extra mile to share it with the crowd.

Refugees say Britain 'does not want us'

THE PRIME Minister was urged yesterday to address the pleas of Kosovo refugees eager to seek asylum in the UK when he makes a statement to MPs next week on the crisis.

The call came from the Labour MP Ann Clwyd, who told the House she had met displaced people in camps across Macedonia who had been told Britain did not want them, despite selecting it as their first-choice destination.

Mr Blair is due to address the House on Monday after attending a Nato summit in Washington and meeting President Bill Clinton.

Raising the issue during questions on forthcoming parliamentary business, Ms Clwyd asked the Commons Leader, Margaret Beckett, if the Prime Minister would talk about the refugees' plight in his statement, particularly as there were many Britons keen to take them into their homes.

When I was in the camps in Macedonia last week, refugees were telling me that they had put down Norway in one instance as their first choice of country to go to, Germany in

WAR IN THE BALKANS
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

the second instance, but both of them would have preferred to come to Britain," said Ms Clwyd, MP for Cynw Valley. "They have been told that in fact Britain didn't want them. I found that a very worrying statement indeed and I don't know whether it is true or not. But so far we have only been told that 250 Kosovo refugees are coming to this country."

Ms Clwyd told MPs: "I have had several phone calls from members of the public who believe that we should be far more generous and indeed are willing to offer accommodation themselves. I think that is the will of the people in Britain. They want us to throw our arms open to these refugees who through no fault of their own are not able to stay in their own homes and will not be able to return to their own homes in the foreseeable future."

Mrs Beckett accepted there was a great deal of sympathy across the House and across the country for refugees. "The

Government has had a couple of approaches from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees on behalf of families in particularly difficult circumstances," she said. "This country has given a great deal of help and support, and faster and more efficiently than many others, to help people survive in the area of Kosovo itself."

"Although there may indeed be some individuals who are seeking to come either to this country or to others, the great bulk of those who are sadly refugees do continue to express the view that what they want is to go back to their homes in Kosovo. What we are anxious to do and what most of the refugee effort is geared to is giving people all the help and support we can now, and maintaining them in the (safe) areas so that they can more readily return to their homes as that becomes possible."

Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North, challenged the Government to say whether local authorities would be given special grants to be able to cope with the long-term demands of the refugees.



Black Rod, General Sir Edward Jones, trying out a bed in a mobile blood unit in the grounds of the House of Lords. Although he did not give blood, he is promoting the campaign urging people to give blood. John Voos

THE HOUSE



NHS dentistry

MPs FROM all sides called for an urgent statement on the state of NHS dentistry. As revealed in *The Independent*, dentistry is close to collapse, with complaints rising from patients who cannot find a health service dentist.

Disabled Bill

MPs BACKED legislation to set up a Disability Rights Commission, which would represent the interests of the disabled. Andrew Smith, the Employment minister, said the Bill was "historic and long overdue".

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Rights delayed

THE GOVERNMENT will not be able to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law this year, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, confirmed. The Human Rights Act was passed by Parliament last year.

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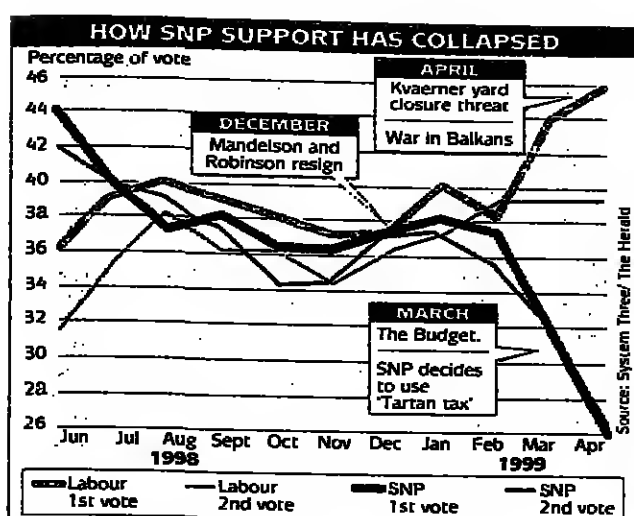
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VOTING FOR A NEW BRITAIN

Opinion poll blow alarms SNP



THE SCOTTISH National Party was in a state of shock yesterday after an opinion poll showed public support plummeting. Black propaganda, a hostile press and the war in Kosovo were all blamed by anxious party officials but the deeper suspicion is that many Scots are frightened by the prospect of independence.

With less than two weeks to go before elections to Scotland's first parliament in 293 years, the SNP is trailing Labour by 20 points - the biggest recorded gap between the parties in recent times.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, tried to put a brave face on the findings of the poll

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN

— carried out for *The Herald* — promising to "barnstorm" his way across Scotland. But apart from fighting talk the party had nothing new to offer.

Yesterday its main topic was an attack on the hike in fuel taxes — an area of policy completely outside the responsibilities of the new Parliament. "As far as this campaign is concerned the SNP have not yet begun to fight. Our response to unfavourable opinion polls is to get our jacks off and get stuck into this campaign," Mr Salmond said.

Hopes for a revival rest heavily on the actor Sean Connery and the generation of a wave of patriotic fervour. Mr Connery, who funds the party to the tune of £40,000 a year, is in Edinburgh this weekend to promote his latest movie, *Entrapment*. He will then turn to promoting the SNP.

Addressing a party rally on Monday night in Edinburgh, making guest appearances with Mr Salmond and probably adding his distinctive burr to a party election broadcast.

Translating the latest opinion poll into Holyrood seats gives Labour 63 — two short of an overall majority — the SNP 34, Liberal Democrats 18 and Tories 13. Earlier polls had shown the SNP winning more

than 40 seats. The remaining member of the 129-seat parliament could be MP Dennis Canavan, expelled by Labour and fighting his Westminster constituency of Falkirk West as an independent.

Angered by what he sees as a hostile, Unionist press, Mr Salmond said the party was going to take the campaign directly to the people, with more razzmatazz and more personalities. "We are going to be here, there and everywhere, barnstorming Scotland in the way we do best."

He was unrepentant over his condemnation of the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia and said the "Penny for Scotland" proposal — reversing the Budget tax cut to pay for public services — would remain a key campaign issue. Both gambles aroused criticism within the party and the anti-bombing stance has almost certainly cost public support.

Mr Salmond's personal poll ratings have fallen way below those of Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland and probable First Minister of the Holyrood Parliament.

The SNP leader said it was understandable the campaign had been kept off the front pages by the war in Kosovo. However, he could not explain why that had cost the SNP more dearly than other parties.

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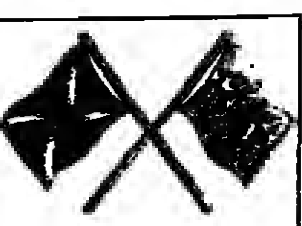
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CAMPAIGNS BRIEFING

13 DAYS TO GO

THE TORIES chose tourism as their theme of the day, claiming that Labour and Liberal Democrat proposals for scrapping the uniform business rate and a £2 per night tax for tourists would hit an industry that generates £2.4bn each year. Liberal Democrats proposed a home insulation programme, claiming 6,000 people die in Scotland every year because they can't heat their homes. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, visited an Internet Café in Edinburgh to promote Labour's plans for a new "digital taskforce", which will bring together government and the computer industry. Donald Dewar, who has travelled 2,500 miles so far, was in Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.

MARGARET JAMIESON, who is fighting Kilmarnock and Loudoun for Labour, won a temporary injunction against the SNP over an article in an election newsletter, which she said was defamatory.

JOB SHARING by members of the Scottish Parliament has been deemed out of order. The Highlands and Islands Alliance thought it had made a breakthrough when nomination papers with two names in one box were accepted. But the returning officer Arthur McCourt has said only the first-named candidate will sit if the Alliance wins.

FAR LEFT or Far Out? A press release from the Scottish Socialist Party flags up a "Change the drugs laws" election rally in Edinburgh Assembly Rooms on Thursday 29 May at 7.30pm. That is, of course, three weeks after the election. What are the comrades on?

"BEFORE DISMISSING this as the fantasies of the James Bond Party, I think we should look at the very real evidence that they are in fact being undermined from within — if only by their present leader Alex Salmond." Labour MP Malcolm Savidge speaking in the Commons about SNP claims that it had been infiltrated by MI5.

Resolute Salmond takes it on the chin

THE BOUT of political canvassing by the beleaguered Scottish National Party leader, Alex Salmond, ended almost before it began. When he hit Montgomery Street in Edinburgh yesterday, with a posse of cameramen in tow, the road was deserted except for an elderly couple out for a stroll, who were duly rewarded with a few minutes of Mr Salmond's time.

With not another soul in sight, Mr Salmond and SNP campaigners had to be content with sticking campaign leaflets under the windscreens of parked cars. The damp little episode seemed entirely in keeping with the tone of this historic but distinctly lacklustre election contest, overshadowed by the Balkans war.

The point was to show Mr Salmond with his chin up — a chin that has taken a few blows in the past two days. He woke yesterday morning to a headline screaming "SNP in freefall" in *The Herald* newspaper, whose opinion poll showed his party's support crumbling, and trailing way behind Labour. The day before Mr Salmond, who has led his party for 10 years, had been hit by a damning report on the economic consequences of independence.

Rumours that at SNP headquarters morale was plummeting as sharply as the poll showings were "just balls", he said. "Our chins are not on the

ground. This is an experienced team and it's been through lots of campaigns and lots of polls."

As he prepared for an appearance with other party leaders on BBC television's *Question Time* last night, Mr Salmond insisted he was not rattled by events. "Big deal," he said of the latest economic report. Previous economic surveys had been more favourable to the SNP. And when it comes to opinion polls there is "only one poll that really counts".

Seasoned observers of the Scottish political scene do not doubt the stamina of Mr Salmond, whose absolute grip on his party makes Mr Blair's look limp-wristed. "He is a tough cookie," said one senior political journalist. "But he does look tired."

The election campaign began with a spate of newspaper stories asking why Mr Salmond, entering the election he had longed for, was so subdued, apparently robbed of his usual self-confidence. It is generally held that leader and party — in the SNP they are now the same thing — are being tested as never before.

In elections to Westminster the SNP was only ever expected to win a few seats. But as the main opposition to Labour in the new Scottish parliament — promotion from local league to premier division,

is how some describe it — the SNP is being subjected to an unprecedented grilling from the Scottish media, much of which is openly anti-SNP.

Despite his control of his party, and his high media profile, Mr Salmond remains largely an enigma.

Few titbits circulate about his private life beyond the fact that his wife is 17 years his senior, his mother voted Tory

and he seems to like the occasional flutter. The racing tipster for *The Herald*, he nipped into a bookmakers at the start of the campaign to put £20 on the SNP winning most seats in the new parliament.

Some reckon he has gambled politically with his Penny for Scotland campaign — the SNP plans to claw back Gordon Brown's penny income tax cut to spend it on public services —

and his opposition to Nato's action on Kosovo. It does not help that polls show him trailing Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, on trust, good judgement, leadership and even charisma.

The SNP have been on the verge of breakthrough and glory so many times before. And nerves must be wobbly.

For a party which depends on an emotional response more

than most it may all be a question of confidence now. And not just of Mr Salmond's.

In a football-obsessed country, where metaphors around the game of two halves are much overused, SNP veteran Jim Sillars once bitterly described Scots as "90 minute patriots", presumably with no guts for extra time.

If Mr Salmond is seen to lose his nerve, wavering voters may

lose theirs. So Mr Salmond knows that come what may, that chin must stay up.

His leadership is at risk as much as the election. The SNP's reluctance to use the "N" and "I" words — nationalism and independence — for fear of scaring off the voters, has frustrated the more militant wing of the party. It will try to tear Mr Salmond apart if the strategy fails.



Alex Salmond with SNP supporters distributing leaflets in Edinburgh yesterday on the party's new fuel tax proposals

David Rose

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'20,000 expelled for drink or drugs'

UP TO 20,000 children are suspended or expelled each year over drugs, drink or smoking incidents, drug campaigners said yesterday.

The Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (Scoda) said schools were too quick to throw out children if they were found with illegal drugs, and urged teachers to make every effort to keep offenders in mainstream classes.

The "drugs tsar", Keith Hellawell, will launch a series of guidelines for dealing with drug incidents today. He said that counselling or specially written behaviour "contracts" could prove more effective in many cases than calling in the police or the "ultimate sanc-

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

expulsion immediately after a drug-related incident, when a different course of action might be more appropriate. We want a guarantee that the school has tried everything else first."

Existing Government guidelines say head teachers would not normally be expected to expel a pupil for a first-time drug offence and recommend a suspension. Teachers are told to inform police of drug-related incidents, but the guidelines say the extent of officers' involvement should be worked out between police and schools.

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, said the survey greatly overestimated the scale of the problem.

He said: "In most cases of exclusion there has been a build up. Exclusion is appropriate as a way of saying that drugs are not tolerated."

John Dunford, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, which opens its annual conference today, defended the right of heads to expel offenders. He said: "There are a considerable number of people excluded for drugs-related incidents, either legal or illegal drugs. It's a problem for schools and one they have to deal with."

"If somebody brought drugs into schools and was selling them, there is no question that the head would be fully justified in doing an immediate permanent exclusion. We take a tough line and it's right to do so. Parents have a right to expect that when they send their children to school it is a drug-free zone. Schools that care for their reputation will want to ensure that is the case."

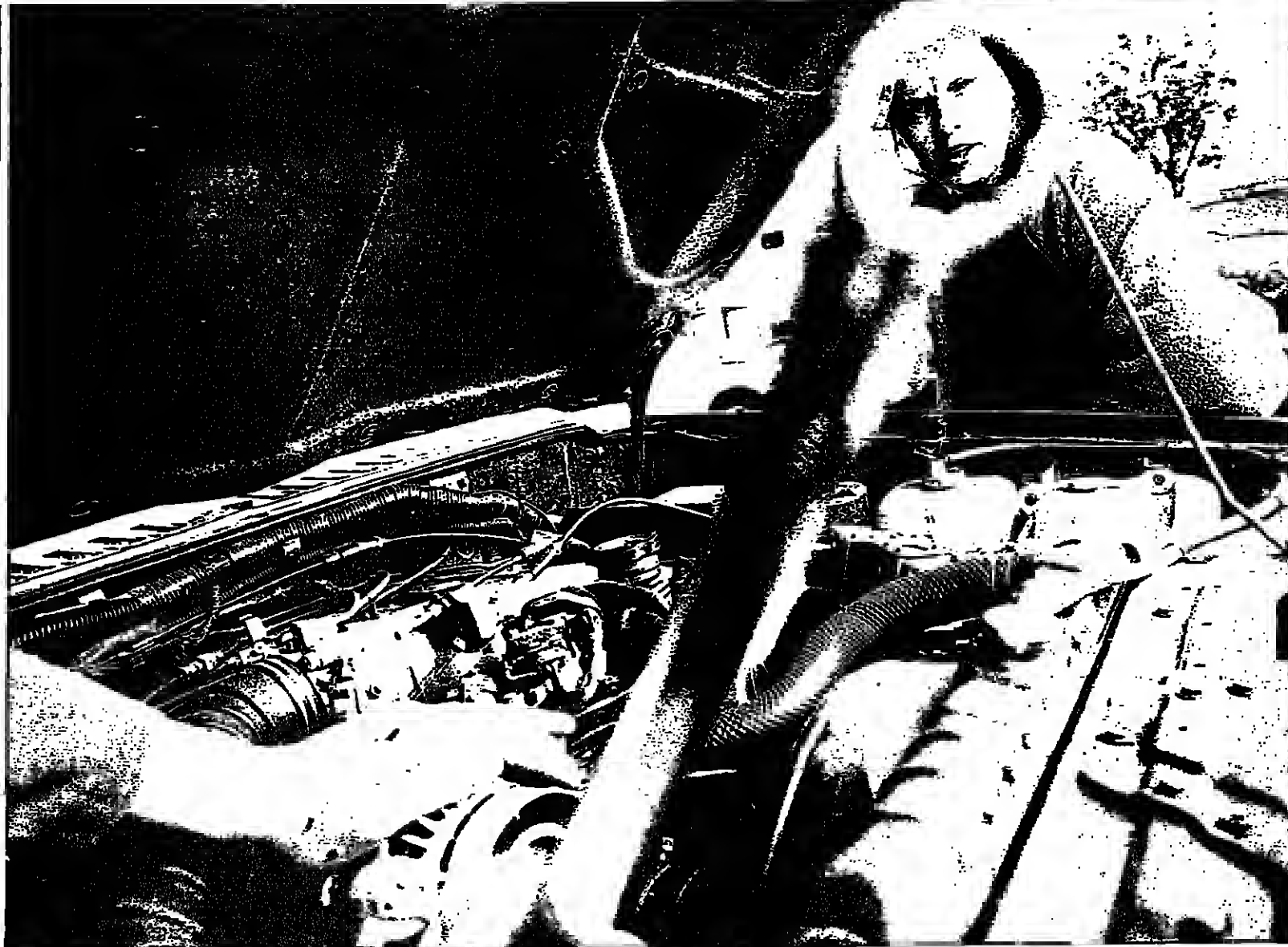


Hellawell: Drug 'tsar' who supports counselling

tion" of expulsion. A survey of 1,100 schools, done by researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University, found that 1,800 children had been excluded from school on a temporary or permanent basis in the past two years.

Roger Howard, the Scoda chief executive, said the same trend repeated across the country would produce 10,000 to 20,000 exclusions a year.

He said: "Schools may be resorting to suspension or



'We all trust garages enormously with these complex pieces of machinery. The question is whether that trust is justified' John Lawrence

Car mechanics face road-test as motorists' complaints soar

ROGUE CAR mechanics and the techniques they use to prey on motorists are to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

The inquiry announced yesterday has been set up after surveys by trading standards departments uncovered an alarming level of shoddy workmanship and bad practice in garages. The OFT said that complaints to local authorities had doubled over the past decade, to 27,000 a year.

Officials are considering sending unmarked test vehicles - complete with glaring faults - to garages as part of their inquiry. They also plan a survey to find out whether women get a worse deal, John Bridgeman,

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

the OFT's director-general, said: "We all trust garages enormously with these incredibly complex pieces of machinery. The question is whether that trust is justified. We are not suggesting that the sector is rife with rogue traders, although we know that rogue traders do exist."

Mr Bridgeman said the OFT would pay close attention to bigger garages to find out whether they are more trustworthy than smaller traders. "If the big companies are being careless and the smaller ones being careful, I want them to get the business. I'm very interested in the feeling that if a consumer

goes to a big garage rather than a small operator they will get a better job done - that might be a myth."

A survey by trading standards officers in Birmingham two years ago found that only one garage out of 22 carried out a complete service on an undercover test car. Surveys exposing bad garages have also been conducted by trading standards departments in Liverpool, and in Lewisham and Southwark in London.

Mr Bridgeman said research by local authorities had found that little or no information was given to customers about the work that had been done. He added: "Far more worrying is the fact that they also found

evidence that known faults were not corrected, faults were introduced during the service, or work was so shoddy that it posed a threat to road safety."

The car repair and servicing market is worth nearly £9bn a year. Britain has more than 26 million cars and on average about £300 a year is spent on each vehicle.

The OFT said the inquiry should be completed early next year. An inquiry into the used car market by the OFT was published in 1997. It found eight million used cars were sold each year and that one buyer in six had a problem with the purchase within six months.

Last month the OFT referred an investigation of car

manufacturers and their relationship with dealers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, now the Competition Commission.

The Consumers' Association called for tough action by the OFT. Andrew McIlwraith, motoring editor of *Which?*, said: "We have been monitoring this issue for many years and have found it to be a serious ongoing problem for car owners. The OFT investigation must go beyond a simple assessment of the size of the problem."

"The OFT must put forward concrete proposals and the Government must take swift and decisive action to resolve this serious and widespread problem for car owners."

Battle over TV cartoon toys

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media News Editor

A HIGH Court judge, several barristers and a court full of copyright lawyers gathered yesterday to debate whether four cuddly toys looked unhappy enough to be copies of cartoon characters they had never seen.

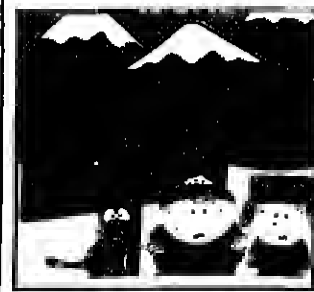
In a surreal touch, the four toys - which are allegedly being passed off as characters from the cartoon show *South Park* - sat on the judge's bench, staring at Mrs Justice Arden and surveying the proceedings.

The case had been brought by Time Warner Entertainment, Viacom and Aardvark Productions seeking an injunction banning Playmakers UK from importing and marketing the Chinese-made toys.

The judge, who admitted she had never seen *South Park*, was told by Adrian Speck, a barrister: "In my chambers, all the unmarried young men are very keen on it. It has become very successful and the merchandising rights in the characters are worth a substantial amount of money." Mr Speck was appearing for the *South Park* copyright owners and said the similarities between the dolls and the *South Park* art work were obvious.

Alastair Wilson QC, for the defence, disagreed. "The *South Park* characters all have a strikingly grim appearance about them," he said. "All ours are cheerful looking things."

The court heard that 350,000 of the dolls were on their way from China for distribution as prizes at fairs, grounds and seaside attractions. The case was adjourned until next month for a full trial of the legal issues.



'South Park' characters are 'strikingly grim'

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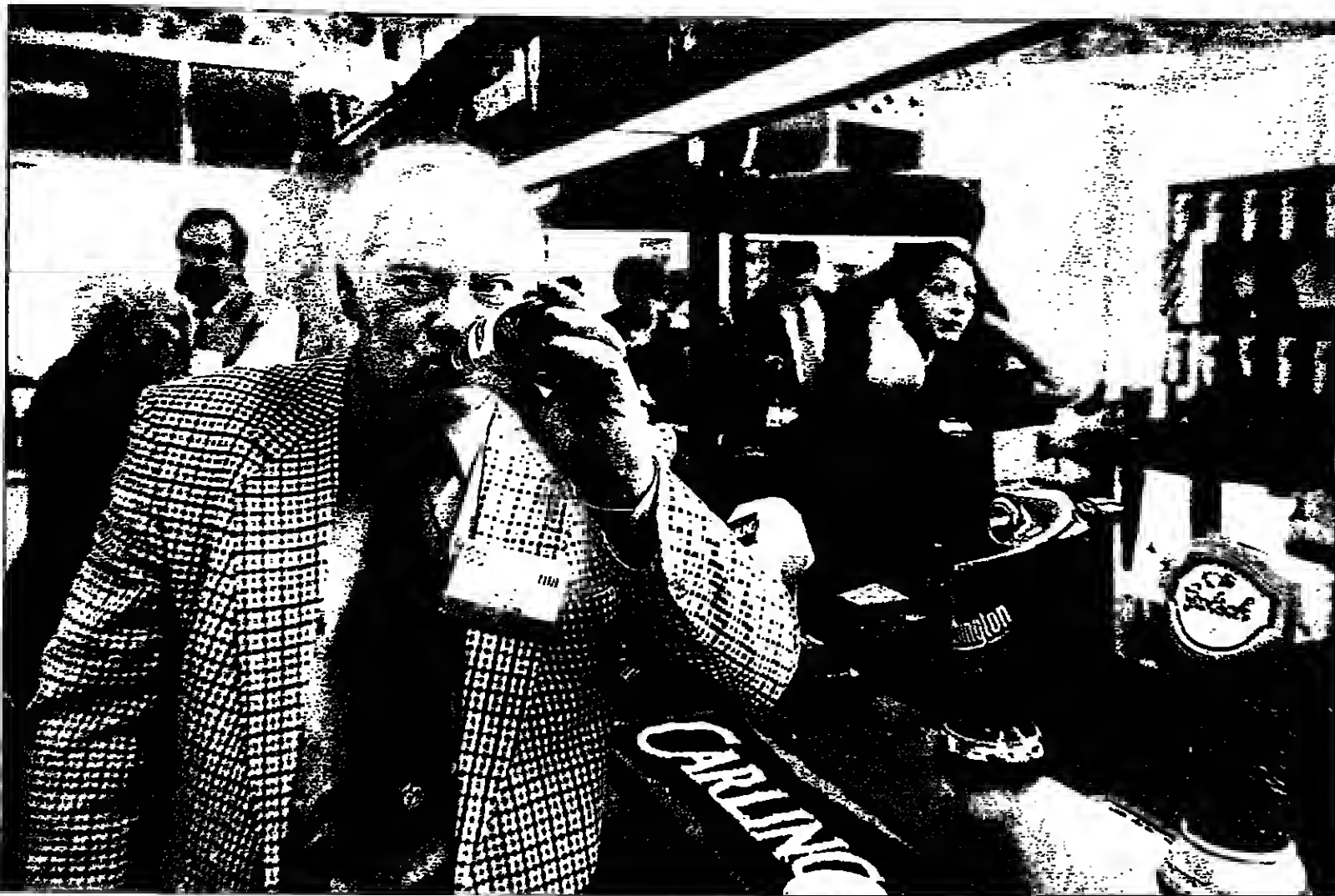
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Landlord Jack Cherry: 'You can't have a pub that just sells drink - you have to look at every aspect of making money' Andrew Buurman

Publicans learn how to bolster profits without pouring a pint

PUB LANDLORDS flocked to a trade show this week - to find out how to squeeze more cash out of thirsty customers.

At the Pub, Club and Leisure Show they learnt how to collect 20p for a 1p phone call, how to sell 6p-worth of nuts for 20p and how to charge £2 for a 65p hot dog. In an unashamedly commercial exercise at Olympia in west London, dozens of stands offered everything from table football to jelly babies, skittles to flashing millennium lights, karaoke to horse-racing.

On the BT stand, publicans and club owners were shown pay phones that enable them to charge anything they like for a call. At weekends, for instance,

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

20p can be charged for a 1p call.

Chris Hughes, managing director of ToyVend, which markets vending machines, said: "Let's cut through the crap about how beautiful the machines are. They make a lot of money out of it. That's why most people are here. They are not interested in what they are buying particularly - they want to make more money."

ToyVend's pistachio nut machine makes 70p profit for every pound fed into it, said Mr Hughes. That's if the publican sticks to the recommended 18 nuts. But a tight-fisted publican can easily adjust the machine

to give even fewer. It does happen, particularly in tourist boneyards, Mr Hughes said.

The Rollover company was there selling a new-style hotdog machine for £395 and promising "fantastic margins". The company estimates that by selling 30 hot dogs a day for £2, a landlord can rake in almost £22,000 in a year, of which almost £15,000 is profit. Each hot dog costs the landlord only 68p.

Futbolin, which sells and leases table football machines, said it was doing good business. Jordi Rodriguez, a director, said: "Anything to do with football these days... you're on to a winner." The company shares profits 50-50 with publicans.

Interfax Leisure was offering portable skittle alleys, which it described as a "proven profit booster". Its pamphlet boasts: "A beer and skittles night greatly increases revenue through sales of food and drink."

John Tomlin, a director of the show, which has been held at Olympia for the past 12 years and last year attracted 6,500 visitors, said the commercial nature of the exhibitors was inevitable.

He said the industry, like any other, was doing its best to offer as much choice to the consumer as possible. "Business is commercial and is run for profit. No one's going to say that is not the case. Unless an industry

takes every opportunity to look at the trends within that sector, it is not going to be able to give people the best choice and the customer will end up being short-changed."

Jack Cherry, landlord of the Station Inn in Gravesend, runs what he calls a "youngsters' pub" with big-screen TV, slot machines, karaoke, pool tables and bouncy castle. "You can't have a pub that just sells drink nowadays," he said. "You have to look at every aspect of making money. We don't charge kids to use our bouncy castle, but the kids bring the mums in and the mums bring the husbands in."

"But you have to get the beer right to be in with a chance."

Women more likely to beat cancer

WOMEN ARE better at surviving cancer than men, according to one of the most comprehensive studies of trends in the disease.

Across most of the main cancers, women do better than men and, in some cases, significantly better. The five-year survival rate for women with malignant melanoma, the skin cancer, is 82 per cent compared with 68 per cent for men, among patients diagnosed between 1986 and 1990.

Women also have the advantage in bowel cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, most leukaemias and most head and neck cancers. Only bladder cancer kills women sooner than men. Although in most cases the difference in survival between the sexes is slight - about 1 or 2 per cent - it has a big effect because of the numbers contracting cancer.

In the UK, the disease is diagnosed in over 250,000 people each year and it causes one in

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

four deaths. Cancer has overtaken heart disease, which is falling, as the leading cause of death in those under 65. Women with cancer tended to do better because they were more health conscious, took problems to the doctor sooner and were better at complying with treatment, he said. The sooner a cancer is diagnosed the better the chances of survival.

"Women may be biologically different and they may have less aggressive disease. Oestrogen may affect more cancers than the obvious ones, such as breast cancer," said Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer Research Campaign.

The study, *Cancer Survival Trends 1971-1995*, covers 47 adult cancers and 11 children's cancers and is based on the records of three million adults and 18,000 children. It was com-

missioned by the Cancer Research Campaign and carried out by researchers from the Office of National Statistics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It shows that for every cancer bar one, five-year survival rates improved over the two decades from 1971 to 1990, many by between 10 and 20 per cent. The sole exception was the rare cancer of the salivary glands.

The biggest increase was in melanoma where survival rates improved by 22 per cent for men and 17 per cent for women. Breast cancer survival improved 14 per cent. Two-thirds of women with breast cancer diagnosed in the late 1980s survived five years compared with only half of those diagnosed in the early 1970s. The study also revealed a cancer survival gap between rich and poor. For 21 adult cancers, including breast, bowel and melanoma, the better off were up to 16 per cent more likely to survive.

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Company Registration Number: 2693582

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Directors of the Applicant:
John William Hummel
Lawrence Crossan

The Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in accordance with section 7 (4) of the Railways Act 1993 that he proposes to grant the Applicant an exemption from the requirement to be authorised by licence to operate passenger train services over the network owned by Aggregate Industries Plc between Coleford (183m) and Meldon Quarry in the County of Devon and a station at Meldon Quarry in the county of Devon, on the grounds that the Applicant is proposing to operate a preserved railway, and that it is therefore not appropriate for the licensing provisions of the Railways Act to be applied to it. Any person who wishes to make any representation or objection with respect to the proposed exemption should send such representation or objection to:

Mr Michael Rickers
Licensing and Standards, Passenger Services Group,
Office of the Rail Regulator, 1 Waterhouse Square,
138-142 High St, London EC1N 2TQ
not later than 21 May 1999. Chris Bolt
Dated 23 April 1999. The Rail Regulator

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High school shooting: Story of teacher's heroism emerges as tragedy divides Colorado's gun lobby

Shocked Denver mourns its lost children

ONE WAS a promising young athlete and straight-A student who loved to fish, play golf and go roller-blading. Another wanted to go into the music business. A third was a talented actress and a committed Christian who dreamt of being a missionary in Africa.

As the names of the 15 people killed in the Colorado school shooting on Tuesday were made public yesterday, friends and classmates paid homage to a group of bright young people who had no business dying so young, or so brutally, and to a much-loved teacher whose selfless efforts to save the lives of his students cost him his own.

One of a crowd of 16-year-olds gathered around the red Acura belonging to Rachel Scott, apparently one of the most popular of the victims, said: "Everybody loved her. She was so caring. She was there for everybody who needed her." Rachel's car was still standing in the car park of Columbine High School where she left it on Tuesday morning. As the long, anxious wait for news turned to grim certainty that she had fallen victim to the gunmen, her friends spread flowers and messages over the car and stood by, sobbing uncontrollably.

Isaiah Shoels, the aspiring music industry executive and

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Littleton, Colorado

the only non-white victim, was just a month away from graduation and had recently overcome surgery to correct a heart problem that almost killed him. His parents had previously complained about threats against him, possibly from the same students who shot him in the library and laughed as they saw the blood running from his head. "He had two strikes against him. He was black and he was an athlete," said his father, Michael Shoels, endorsing the view that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold harboured a special grudge against sports "jocks" and minorities.

As more details of the four-hour killing spree emerged, so too did stories of heroism that prevented the death toll from rising even higher. When the first bombs exploded and shooting began, Dave Sanders, a business teacher and basketball coach, jumped on to a chair in the school cafeteria and yelled to the hundreds of students there to run for cover.

A few moments later Mr Sanders was upstairs, pulling to safety a boy who had been shot in the leg. He was shot himself shortly afterwards, and dragged himself into a science room where a fellow-



Top: Schoolchildren hug each other in the car park outside Columbine High School in Littleton, where 14 students and a teacher were killed on Tuesday. Six of the victims were (from the left) John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Corey DePooter, Isaiah Shoels, Rachel Scott and the teacher, Dave Sanders. Main photograph: AFP

teacher gave him first aid and tried to keep him conscious.

He died in the arms of a police Swat team member with the words: "Tell my daughter I love her."

The teacher who tended him, Kent Friesen, was also praised for pulling students out of corridors and into the sci-

ence lab, where he told them to crouch between sinks. He unscrewed all the emergency lights from their sockets and lined up dry chemical fire extinguishers as a deterrent in case the gunmen burst in.

Eighteen-year-old Adam Foss, meanwhile, directed students in the choir room to pile

into a small office next door, where he used his shirt to staunch the bleeding of an injured girl and pulled off the ceiling tiles to let more air in from the ventilation ducts.

Such stories appeared to confirm Columbine High's reputation as an essentially happy, cohesive environment. The school, with almost 2,000 students, has one of the strongest academic records of any school in the Denver area and is one of the biggest draws to new residents moving to Littleton. In the southwestern city suburbs.

Beneath the surface, however, there were signs of dysfunction, driven by the peculiar social make-up of the conservative, church-oriented community and by the competitive, high-achieving atmosphere of the school itself. Several students appeared to have struggled with being tagged outcasts for failing to conform. An evan-

gelical brand of Christianity bordering on fundamentalism appeared to be an important badge of identity that groups such as the so-called Trenchcoat Mafia - the killers' clique - struggled against.

One of the victims, Cassie Bernall, became so enthralled with witchcraft, violence and suicide that a church counselor, Dave McPherson, recalled thinking: "There's no hope for that girl. Not our kind of hope."

Shortly afterwards, she became a born-again Christian, hung a "what would Jesus do?" sticker on her school backpack and joined a youth group at the West Bowles Community Church. Such emotional and spiritual flipping might offer an insight into the psyche of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

So, too, might the intricate class structure of the high school. Although Columbine High has no dress code, most

students buy their clothes at clean-cut suburban mall outlets such as The Gap and Abercrombie & Fitch.

Part of the motivation for the Trenchcoat Mafia's trademark black appears to have been a need to distance themselves from that strait-laced look and the middle-class connotations it carries.

Eric Harris, in particular, came from a far more modest background than the average. His father, a retired Air Force major, moved his family to Littleton in 1996 where they bought a relatively small house and kept themselves removed from their neighbours. Although he was a good student and a former little league baseball player, Harris appears to have resented the "jock" look and grown ever more defiant as he withdrew into violent video games, weapons and thoughts of death.

His friend, Dylan Klebold,

fitted more into the class mould - his family home sat on five acres of land, with five more a short drive away - but not into the dominant political and religious ideology of Littleton. His father, a former oil and gas geologist turned mortgage broker, and his mother, who works with disabled schoolchildren, are educated liberals who resisted the suburban gun culture and actively advocated greater controls on domestic weapons.

They appear to have known their son was severely troubled. Mr Klebold offered to go to Columbine High during the shooting to talk his son into surrendering, but police turned him down. Although they could not be found at their house as the full horror of the rampage emerged, a group of friends pinned a sign to their front gate saying: "Sue and Tom, we love you, we're here for you. CALL US."

Rifle association told to stay away from city

WITH COLORADO'S gun lobby humbled and divided by the Columbine shootings, the Denver mayor's office urged the National Rifle Association yesterday not to visit the city for its annual meeting on 1 May, saying it was neither the time nor the place for such a gathering.

The NRA, one of the United States' most powerful lobbying groups, headed by the actor Charlton Heston, has already agreed to scale back what was going to be a huge convention party, reducing four days of exhibitions, parties and set-piece events to just one reception, one prayer breakfast with Oliver North, the army colonel at the centre of the Iran-Contra scandal, and the meeting itself.

But Denver's liberal mayor, Wellington Webb, and his staff said this was not enough and urged citizens to call the NRA's toll-free phone number to voice their opposition to the group coming at all. "We don't want them here," said the city council president, Allegra Haynes.

One billboard advertising the NRA meeting was removed from downtown Denver, and all talk of an \$18m (£11m) boost to the local economy has stopped.

The NRA meeting was meant, in part, to be a celebration three new pieces of legislation in Colorado loosening restrictions on concealed weapons and making it harder for victims of shootings to sue

BY ANDREW GUMBEL

gun manufacturers. That legislation was due to be debated on the floor of the state Capitol on Wednesday, the day after the shooting, and never even made it on to the agenda. Assemblymen simply gathered to commemorate the victims with a minute's silence and then ended the session.

Republican Doug Dean, of Colorado Springs, withdrew the two bills he had sponsored, and Colorado's governor, Bill Owens, himself an advocate of looser gun control, said he would veto the third if it ever reached his desk.

Ever since Tuesday's shocking events, the gun lobby has been doing its utmost to behave honourably without conceding that the wide availability of firearms in affluent suburbs such as Littleton, site of Columbine High School, added to the risk of such tragedies.

The day after the shootings, Charlton Heston wrote to the 23,000 NRA members who had been expected to come to Denver, saying it was time to show "our profound sympathy and respect for the families and communities in the Denver area in their time of great loss".

He went on: "Our spirits must endure this terrible suffering together, and so must the freedoms that bring us together. We must stand in sombre but



Heston: 'Outrageous' to allow trench coats in school

unshakable unity, even in this time of anguish."

In subsequent television interviews, however, Mr Heston sounded an altogether less conciliatory note, arguing that a teacher with a concealed weapon might have been able to curtail the violence, and expressing outrage that trench coats - the trademark clothing of the two killers and their friends - should be allowed in school on a warm spring day. "Come on. That's outrageous in a school," Mr Heston said. "I'm afraid you have to blame the parents of those two boys."

Several politicians, including Assemblyman Dean and Minnesota's flamboyant new governor, the former wrestler Jesse Ventura, shared Mr Heston's view that more weapons

on campus might have helped. An armed police officer was, in fact, on campus and exchanged fire with the killers, but was powerless to overcome them.

The weapons issue is particularly divisive in Colorado because of the state's contrasting groups of liberal environmentalists and conservative, born-again Christian, hunting and shooting enthusiasts.

The battle lines manifest themselves in various ways: this is a state where no-growth ecologists are forever fighting property developers, and the liberal intellectual tradition - best represented by the prestigious University of Colorado in Boulder - clashes with fundamentalists who attend right-wing breakfast clubs and advocate home schooling for children.

Callers to right-wing Denver radio stations have argued with barely concealed rage that the school shootings have nothing to do with the guns issue and are being manipulated by the liberals for political ends.

Presenting the opposite view, three surgeons who operated on the injured made a point of saying that greater gun control would have helped to prevent the kinds of horrific wounds they had to treat. The damage done by the 9mm semi-automatic pistols used by the Columbine killers was immeasurably greater than traditional 22 calibre rifles, one said.

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Barak may do deal with rival to oust Netanyahu

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU'S opponents may unite to back one candidate as a way of defeating the Israeli Prime Minister in next month's election.

The best – and perhaps only – chance of victory for Ehud Barak, the One Israel candidate, is to persuade Yitzhak Mordechai, the former defence minister, to stand down and join forces with him.

One Israel, the new name for the Labour party, would offer Mr Mordechai, the candidate of the newly created Centre party, four or five ministerial posts in a new government, according to Israeli press reports. Mr Mordechai himself would become the deputy prime minister and defence minister.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

Mr Netanyahu is a little behind Mr Barak in the polls, but the large number of voters who are declaring themselves to be "undecided" traditionally swing to the right.

Mr Mordechai, whom polls show will win some 17 per cent of the vote on 17 May, has failed to make the breakthrough that would enable him to survive until the second round of balloting. This takes place on 1 June if no candidate wins half the vote in the first round.

The Centre party leadership largely comprises politicians and members of the Israeli establishment who have

quarrelled with Mr Netanyahu. According to the daily *Maariv*, its leaders – with the exception of Mr Mordechai – are reconciled to doing a deal before the election, in which they are likely to fare badly.

Mr Barak needs to win in the first round of the election, because as many as a quarter of the Israeli-Arab community may not turn out for voting on 1 June.

In the first round, Israeli-Arabs will be attracted to the polls because that is the Knesset election, in which they will be voting for their own parties as well as the prime minister.

One Israel, advised by American political consultants, has run a better-organised campaign in recent weeks. But this may make only a limited difference because voter loyalty in Israel is often determined by membership of ethnic or religious communities, such as the ultra-orthodox Jews or Russian immigrants. In this way, One Israel is at a disadvantage and, under its old name of Labour, has won only one election outright since 1973.

Even with Mr Mordechai supporting him, Mr Barak faces a close race. He needs Azmi Bishara, the Arab candidate for the prime minister's office, to throw his support behind him. Mr Bishara currently has the support of 4 per cent of voters. By contrast, Mr Netanyahu

wants Benny Begin, the candidate of the far right, not to drop out in case he should set a precedent for Mr Mordechai also giving up.

If Mr Mordechai does decide to back Mr Barak, the partnership will probably be agreed only a week before the election, thus allowing Mr Mordechai to maximise his demand for jobs in a new government.

Amnon-Lipkin Shahak, the former Israeli chief of staff and a founder of the Centre party, would reportedly be made ambassador to Washington and also put in charge of negotiations with Syria.

The inability of the Centre party to make a breakthrough confirms the diagnosis of Yossi

Beilin, one of the leaders of One Israel, that Israeli politics has few centrist or floating voters. This is because normal political differences are reinforced by the various religious, ethnic and class loyalties.

Such floating voters as do exist are enthusiastically pursued by all parties.

This is particularly true of the Russian immigrants, whose voting patterns are considered more fluid than those of other communities. Party leaders were yesterday courting Igor Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister, at the start of his visit to Israel.

Polls show that 91 per cent of Russian Jews in Israel want better relations with Russia.

Italians open their eyes to spotless B&B

EUROPEAN TIMES
ROME

THE ITEM was thrown away at the end of the regional television news, which follows the national bulletin. The Agency for Rome's Jubilee Year 2000 reported that 1,500 families in the capital had expressed interest in offering B&B accommodation to foreign guests. B&B is a totally new concept in Italy but with 30 million pilgrims and tourists expected to descend on Rome next year, its introduction is nothing if not timely. Hotels are expensive and there will not be enough to go round.

But the news set me thinking about how almost every aspect of domestic life is different in Italy compared with Britain, the United States, Australia – or, indeed, anywhere in the world. I remember when I first arrived here, the perplexity of my hostess when I politely declined her offer of *ciabatta*, a sort of shoe-cum-slipper. It was summer and the mock marble tiles were delightfully cool under my bare feet. She insisted, because I could have caught a chill, and even if her floors were cleaned daily my feet would inevitably get dirty.

Before I knew it, I was visualising all sorts of farcical scenes. Mrs Rossi's shocked face when Mr Smith presents her with a thank-you bouquet of chrysanthemums (they're strictly for graves and bringing them into a house courts bad luck). Mrs Smith asking Mr Rossi in her best Italian whether she could wash some smalls in the bidet. Wholesale panic when the Smith teenager innocently pulls a strap on the wall in the bathroom, not realising it's an alarm bell in case Grandma Rossi takes a bad turn in the bath. The apoplexy of Grandma Smith as the Rossi's 16-year-old daughter nonchalantly lights up a Marlboro in the living room.

My curiosity sparked, I contacted the freephone lines about B&B set up by the chamber of commerce. It took me two days to get through, so presumably lots of Romans are similarly interested. I was told that a regional law defined what B&B Italian-style should comprise. Those interested in B&B must live on the premises – which cuts out people wishing to put country houses to this use, and there is a limit of six guests. The tourism board inspects the premises before giving an OK, but there are no guidelines on price, which varies according to whether you are overlooking Piazza Navona or a car park.

One thing that is defined clearly is breakfast. Guests are forewarned there will be no point in complaining that there are no bacon and eggs or fresh croissants. Tea, coffee and milk are obligatory – food is left up to the proprietor on the condition that it be pre-packed, preferably in individual portions. You may be offered cheese and ham but it will not be freshly cut. It's important to understand that this, from the point of view of Italian administrators, at least, is for your own good. One national trait that is frequently overlooked is

that Italians are hygiene freaks; this does not just mean enormous attention to their own cleanliness and the tidiness of their houses but also to what they eat. My babysitter will frequently leave a packet of lentils or baking powder on the table with an accusing note saying "Scaduto!" (past its use-by date) and my mother-in-law scrubs my chopping board with bleach. By ordering packed breakfasts, the authorities are simply avoiding the dire, though remote prospect, that someone's memory of Rome will be a stomach ache.

But this is Italy and you may well find someone prepared to break the rules.

The law stipulates that the paying guests will have use of the bathroom. Many Italians are convinced that foreigners, and Brits in particular, are not great washers and therefore long, hot showers won't send their power bill through the roof. My partner's teenage daughter had been pestering him for months about going on an exchange trip to Ireland this summer to improve her English. But when he finally agreed, she was having second thoughts. A girl from the



When in Rome, you may live where the Romans do

next class up had, it seemed, had a nightmare experience with "una famiglia di Zulu". Zulu is Italian yoo-f-speak for barbarians. The family in question were guilty of leaving a grubby ring in their bath. Their young Italian visitor had to apply some elbow grease and Jif before she could start her ablutions.

The Italian B&B will be a real novelty on the psychological front. Italians are not accustomed to opening their home to people other than extended family or close friends. The pervasive concept of *bella figura* – which is why Italians are always better groomed than most other Europeans – means their houses must be spotless, their meals impeccable, their linen whiter than white. And why would one go to that effort to impress someone you didn't know and might never see again?

It seems those interested in offering B&B are either Romans who have travelled or those who believe that new year 2000 is going to be such a nightmare in terms of traffic and crowd chaos, that they might as well try and make a few extra lire.

FRANCES KENNEDY

Anwar's wife takes up the battle for democracy in Malaysia

AZIZAH ISMAIL is a tiny woman with a huge task on her hands. This time last year few people had heard of the softly spoken retired eye surgeon who entertained guests, looked after the children and attended party conferences with her husband, Malaysia's former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim. She had certainly never made a public speech.

Now, she regularly draws crowds of up to 20,000 and is attempting to perform a miracle: unseat the powerful coalition that has ruled Malaysia since it gained independence from Britain in 1957. With only rudimentary weapons she is facing a Goliath in a battle that few expect her to win. But they are watching with fascination and growing respect.

Seated on a sofa in her spacious but modestly furnished house in one of Kuala Lumpur's leafy suburbs, she laughs when she recalls the moment she realised what her future might hold. "We were at a rally and my husband said, 'If anything happens to me, then Azizah will take over.' It was unreal to hear him say that, he hadn't really discussed it with me."

Anwar had been sacked by his former friend and mentor, the Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad. Anwar and his wife were touring the country, calling for reform, inspired by the uprising that had ousted President Suharto of Indonesia. A few months later, when Anwar was arrested, 46-year-old Dr Azizah took over the campaign, joining a long list of Asian women who have inherited a political role from their fathers and husbands.

A serene, warm-hearted woman, Dr Azizah has withstood much: allegations that her husband betrayed her with both sexes, his violent arrest by masked gunmen, the sight of his bruised and beaten face and the news last week that he will

BY SARAH STRICKLAND
in Kuala Lumpur

be behind bars for the next six years. She has remained dignified and calm throughout. "I controlled myself because I would have broken down," she said. "Anwar told me not to be sad, to be brave."

Her main selling point, she believes, is that she is both a trained doctor and an embattled mother. "I am seen as a maternal figure with a maternal instinct. I will rise up and protect my family and I think that can be transformed into political will to change. People have sympathy for me and my position translates into what is wrong with the system. I only wish I had more political acumen, could be a better orator. Caught unprepared I can only make the best of it, which I think is also my appeal. I speak from the heart and have even seen grown men cry."

Dr Azizah, who recently launched the National Justice Party, knows the odds are against her: she faces a huge political machine that has money, experience and a cowed media behind it. Her main weapon is public outrage at Anwar's treatment, which she says has opened people's eyes to injustice and corruption.

"Traditionally people would vote for the status quo and stability. We are going for a clean, effective government – not instability. The system has worked for us but we have to remove the repression." Her party has adopted a "multi-ethnic" label and its success depends on attracting votes from Malaysia's three main ethnic communities: Malays, Chinese and Indians. The two main opposition parties, one fiercely Islamic, the other mainly Chinese, are sharing a platform with her.

"We have not glossed over the differences, we accept they



Dr Azizah Ismail: 'I will rise up and protect my family and that can be transformed into political change' AP

exist. The exciting thing is that we have come together on common ground, with common goals. 'Never seen without her headscarf', Dr Azizah describes herself as a pious Muslim, drawn to her husband by his deep religious convictions.

"He was very Islamic and I

felt that we could have a good life together. My parents were not so happy because he was considered anti-government but they got over it."

The as yet unproven allegations of sodomy and adultery, which Anwar has been found guilty of trying to cover up,

caused pain as they would in any household. "We are not angels, we are humans. I looked at my husband's relations with me and decided no letter should be used to destroy my happiness. I knew from then that they were trying to break us. I do not believe the

allegations and nor do our children. They know their father."

Now Anwar sits in a jail that he helped to construct. "The irony is that he approved the allocation of funds for the building," says Dr Azizah, summoning a smile in the midst of her grief.

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BUSINESS

New Euro telecoms giant
faces a daunting struggle

BRIEFING

Abbey builds new mortgage share

STOCK IN Abbey National, the mortgage bank, leapt 85p to 1,368p, a jump of 6.6 per cent, after it said it had taken 6 per cent of new mortgages sold in the first quarter, nearly doubling its share from the same period last year. The chairman, Sir Christopher Tugendhat, said the board expected the economy to improve in the second half "as the effects of interest-rate changes and improved confidence feed through". However, Abbey also flagged a net outflow of traditional savings as savers switch to new entrants such as Prudential's Egg and Standard Life bank.

US 'will support dollarisation'



LAWRENCE SUMMERS, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary (pictured), said the US would support the dollarisation of Latin American economies if it would enhance economic stability. He said any country considering adopting the dollar as its own currency should discuss this with the US. They could not expect to benefit from America's banking supervision system or influence monetary policy, he told a Senate committee. He said adopting the dollar could lead to lower interest rates and greater stability, but countries had to be ready to give up monetary independence.

Pison Computer chief steps down

PALM-TOP computer company Pison dispensed with the head of its Pison Computer division by mutual consent. Harold Goddijn resigned as managing director and stepped down from the board. Sources said an internal review found the company was not moving fast enough in a competitive market. Mr Goddijn was previously managing director and 50 per cent owner of Pison Nederland BV the company's Dutch venture. Pison shares rose 37.5p to 882.5p yesterday. David Levin, who joined as chief executive in February, will become acting managing director at Pison Computers.

- Companies announce 'merger of equals' to create European powerhouse
- Deal faces regulatory probe, while analysts and shareholders are sceptical
- Savings could be 1bn euros, although no job cuts are planned for the 300,000 staff

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM and Telecom Italia were facing a daunting struggle last night to push through their \$173bn (£107bn) merger in the face of growing scepticism among shareholders, political uncertainty and the prospect of a lengthy, hostile regulatory investigation.

The deal, which would create the world's third-biggest telecoms operator by market value and the second-biggest by sales, was hailed by the two as a "merger of equals" that would create a European powerhouse. Franco Bernabè of Telecom Italia, who will be co-chief executive alongside Ron Sommer of Deutsche Telekom, claimed the merged company would increase competition and could provide the springboard for further acquisitions in the US and elsewhere in Europe. The two companies expect to launch the as yet unnamed company by the end of this year.

But analysts pointed to the huge regulatory hurdles the deal faces and the problems the two companies could encounter in untangling existing joint venture arrangements.

There was also scepticism about whether the two operators, who until recently were state-owned monopolies, would achieve the projected 1bn euros savings and how the two co-chief executives would split roles. Mr Sommer said the costs of the merger would be less than 600m euros but indicated there was no intention of cutting the combined group's 300,000-strong workforce. Mr Bernabè joked that the co-chiefs would divide their role so that one worked while the other went skiing.

Meanwhile, doubts persisted in Rome about the German government's undertaking not to use its 40 per cent shareholding to interfere in the running of the enlarged business, given that it has refused to relinquish its voting rights.

The merger is designed to beat off a hostile \$65bn bid for Telecom Italia from Olivetti. But yesterday shares in both

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia closed lower. At last night's closing the merger terms value Telecom Italia at 11.77 euros a share - just a shade above the 11.5 euros Olivetti is offering.

Clearance for the Olivetti bid from the Italian stock exchange authority, the Consob, is imminent, freeing the company to table a formal offer by the end of this month. The Olivetti offer has already obtained regulatory clearance.

"The Deutsche Telekom offer is not that appetising," said Francesco Mantica of Milan-based fund managers, Cassa Lombarda.

Analysts also highlighted the political uncertainties around the deal. "The presentation failed to address investor concerns about such crucial issues as the future of the German government's stake, fuelling the preoccupation that the whole deal may never happen," said Oriana Cardani, an analyst at Rastin in Milan.

The merger would value Telecom Italia at \$67bn at Wednesday's closing price and would create a combined business with sales of 60bn euros, more than 100 million customers (including 72 million in their domestic markets) and 23 million mobile subscribers. The enlarged group would also cover 30 per cent of Europe's business telecoms market and one-fifth of its Internet subscriber base.

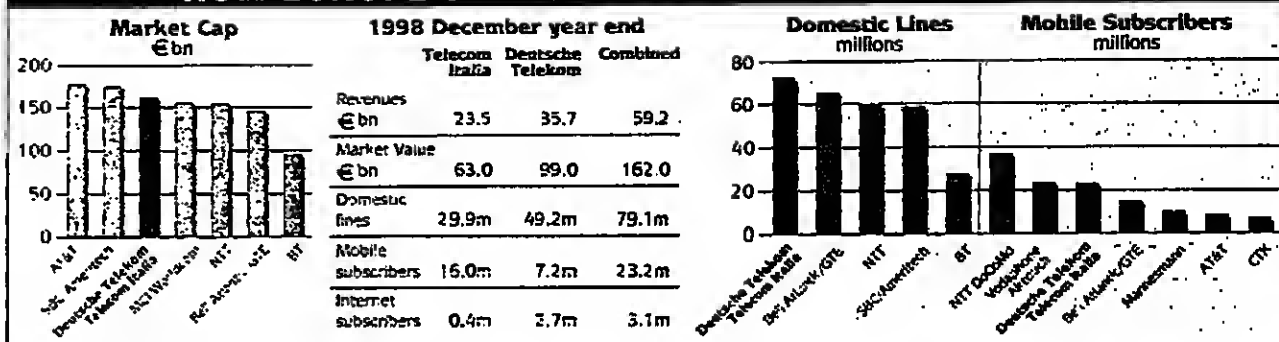
The two companies are projecting synergies of 600m euros next year and 1bn euros by 2003, split evenly between increased revenues and reduced operating costs. They are also forecasting savings on capital expenditure programmes of 1bn euros over five years.

The merger is to be carried out through the creation of a new company domiciled in Germany. The two operators will exchange their shares for shares in the new company in the ratio of one for every one for Deutsche



Franco Bernabè, chief executive of Telecom Italia (left) and his Deutsche Telekom counterpart Ron Sommer, in London yesterday. They hope to launch the new telecoms giant by the end of this year. Neville Elder

HOW EUROPE'S BIGGEST EVER MERGER STACKS UP



Telekom and three for one for Telecom Italia. Deutsche Telekom's shareholders will own 56 per cent of the new group and Telecom Italia's 44 per cent.

There will be twin head offices in Bonn and Rome; a supervisory board of 20, made up of 10 trade union nominees and 10 others nominated evenly by the two partners; a 12-strong management board led by the two chief executives; and an "advisory committee" sitting in between the two boards.

The chairmanship of the supervisory board will rotate annually from a German to an Italian nominee. The first chair-

man will be the former head of the German chemicals company, Henkel.

Earlier this week the European Competition Commissioner Karel Van Miert, warned that the deal raised a "whole list of problems and hitches" and that it was almost certain to face a full five-month probe.

Mr Bernabè conceded this yesterday, saying: "It will be a lengthy process, there will be lots of hurdles but we think we will overcome these hurdles and will get the deal done."

The first casualty of the deal, if it goes through, could be the Global One joint venture be-

tween Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and the US long-distance carrier Sprint. France Telecom warned last night that the deal was "a clear violation" of its agreement with Deutsche Telekom. "France Telecom deplores this behaviour and will undertake whatever action is appropriate to protect its rights and the interests of its shareholders," it added.

However, Mr Sommer maintained that the deal did not endanger existing partnerships. "This is not aimed against existing partners. We see this merger strengthening Global One," he said.

Mr Bernabè was even more bullish, saying: "Limiting this alliance to a German-Italian grouping would be to create a weak competitor. We need global reach and we are planning the next step."

Telecom Italia may have to pull out of Wind, its joint venture with Telecom France and Enel in Italy. But there was speculation that the merged group might now bid for Sprint, in which Deutsche Telekom already has a 10 per cent stake, or even the UK telecoms operator Cable & Wireless.

Outlook, page 17
People and Business, page 21

Hampel says goodbye
with blistering attack

SIR RONALD HAMPEL yesterday used the occasion of his last speech as chairman of ICI to launch a blistering attack on the media, analysts, shareholders, academics and consultants.

After highlighting developments in restructuring the paints and chemicals group, Sir Ronald said he thought it appropriate on leaving office to mention "some wider aspects of business life which trouble me".

He complained that the interaction between companies, shareholders, analysts and the media produced "some intolerable results for which I have no immediate solution".

Among chairmen and chief executives, "today's heroes are tomorrow's villains," he said. "Institutional shareholders are under competitive pressure to perform and they too are instant

BY ANDREW VERITY

heroes and villains. The analyst community - at least those who work for the broking industry - earn no return for their employers by recommending a hold; it must be a buy or sell.

"Finally, the media, which is also highly competitive and values scoops and sensations above all else, operates to deadlines in business frequently forget, and indeed would not tolerate.

"Comments of the media, fed by the analyst community, sometimes anonymously, with no regulatory requirement for accuracy or consistency, can create real problems for management. Management must of course be accountable, but it requires real courage to maintain a long-term strategy under this sort of media pressure."

Sir Ronald, the architect of the Combined Code on corporate governance adopted by the Stock Exchange, also attacked shareholders for their approach to executive pay. "I was delighted when [the Hampel report on corporate governance] received widespread support... But I am saddened that some shareholders and so many in the academic and consulting world, and indeed the media, persist in pursuing dogma and ticking boxes without testing the facts of a particular situation."

He attacked the unnamed shareholders for criticising two ICI directors, Rob Margetts and Alan Spall, for retaining two-year contracts. The shareholders had pointed to his own report, which says all directors should move towards one-year contracts.

Upbeat results, page 21

Second profits warning
issued by JJB Sports

JJB SPORTS, the sports retailer, issued its second profits warning in three months yesterday when it said last year's £290m acquisition of rival Sports Division had caused disruptions on deliveries.

Admitting it had overpaid for the company, JJB said the integration of the two chains' delivery systems had caused greater disruption than expected, leading to insufficient stock in the stores.

"We were only able to get one delivery per week to the stores instead of two," said David Whelan, the chairman, who admitted that the stores had regularly run out of popular items such as size 9 and 10 trainers.

The shortfall of stock led to sharply lower sales in both chains after Christmas. In the eight weeks to 28 March un-

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

derlying sales were down by 5 per cent at the JJB outlets but 27 per cent at the Sports Division stores.

The warning shocked the City which disputed the company's suggestion that it had made the market aware of the delivery issue.

JJB shares plunged 57.5p to 372.5p on the news. One analyst said: "It is not true to say the market was prepared for this. They seem to have had a major stock problem and didn't seem to get enough Nike and Adidas stock until the beginning of April."

Some analysts suggested that the warning increased market suspicions that the sports sector has gone off the

boil. JJB has cut its margins and is cutting them again in an attempt to woo shoppers. For example it is charging £39.99 for the new England replica football shirt launched last week, instead of the price of £49.99 originally recommended.

Mr Whelan said sales had been improving slightly in the three weeks to 10 April. He said distribution services would be "back to normal" by the end of May. He also said the company was continuing to re-brand two Sports Division stores per week under the JJB name.

He denied that the market for training shoes or replica shirts had declined.

However, he said that in two weeks JJB will launch an Internet ordering service for gold equipment and replica football shirts.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

THE MARKET rose sharply as Wall Street's bullishness dispelled fears domestic stocks are overvalued. The FTSE 100 was 102.6 points up at 6,413.6 after the Dow followed its Wednesday high with a strong rally. Smaller indices followed: the mid cap ended 38.9 up at 5,792.3 while the small cap rose 22.8 to 2,508.3, its highest of the year.

Telecoms were in demand, boosted by talk of a merger between Cable & Wireless and France Telecom and of a sale of C&W's One2One.

Market report, page 21

NEW YORK

UNEXPECTEDLY strong results from IBM, the world's largest computer company, took Wall Street to new highs yesterday. By midday, the Dow Jones average was trading 102 points higher at 10,684, having earlier in the session broken through the 10,700 barrier for the first time. IBM, which soared more than \$23 to \$195 1/8, accounted for almost all the Dow's gain.

The IBM profit report also benefited the Nasdaq, the US benchmark hi-tech index, which was trading 2 per cent up at 2,538.

TOKYO

A RALLY in hi-tech stocks pushed Tokyo shares higher, with the Nikkei 225 closing up 1 per cent at 16,665.88. Traders said tech stocks received a triple boost from the recovery of the Nasdaq, a record close on Wednesday for the Dow and better-than-expected earnings from IBM. Among major hi-tech climbers on the Japanese market were Toshiba, Fujitsu and Hitachi. Japan Telecom was up 10 per cent on the back of newspaper reports suggesting that telecoms giants BT and AT&T would each take a stake in the company.

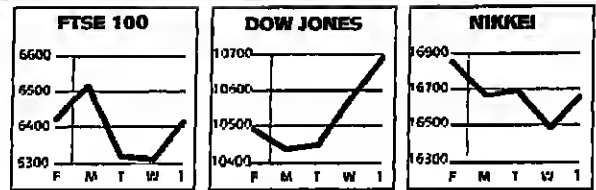
HONG KONG

MOUNTING speculation of a local interest-rate cut helped Hong Kong stocks close sharply higher yesterday. The benchmark Hang Seng index ended 389.78 points higher at 12,933.54, having broken through 13,000 in the session. Charles Crofton-Atkins, trader at South China Securities, said: "The hulls are out. We're above our technical resistance level and there's a strong possibility of a rate cut". The Hong Kong Association of Banks holds its interest-rate meeting today; it last cut rates a fortnight ago.

FRANKFURT

A SURGE in banking shares helped offset a fall in telecom stocks on the Frankfurt market yesterday. The benchmark Xetra Dax finally closed up almost 1 per cent at 5,226.64, with gains in Deutsche Bank accounting for a large proportion of the rise. Deutsche Bank closed up over 5 per cent at 50.76 euros amid hopes of solid results from merger partner Bankers Trust. Shares in Deutsche Telekom fared less well, finishing more than 2 per cent lower amid jitters over its merger with Telecom Italia.

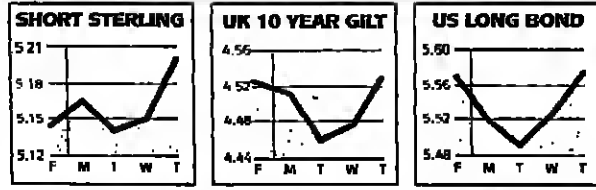
STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

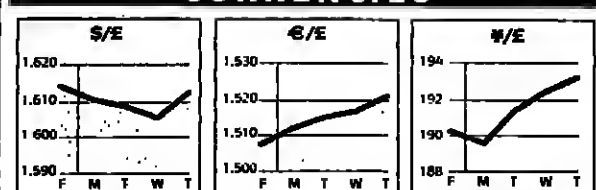
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6413.6	102.6	1.63	6539.90	4599.30	2.50
FTSE 250	5792.3	38.9	0.67	5970.90	4247.60	3.03
FTSE 350	3065.10	43.70	1.45	3110.60	2210.40	2.58
FTSE All Share	2989.08	41.65	1.42	3010.25	2143.53	2.66
FTSE SmallCap	2508.3	22.80	0.92	2793.80	1834.40	4.23
FTSE Fledgling	0.00	0.00	0.81	1517.10	1046.20	3.45
FTSE AIM	918.90	4.90	0.54	1146.90	761.30	1.10
FTSE Euro100	0.00	29.95	1.01	3079.27	2018.15	1.86
FTSE Euro300	0.00	15.47	1.21	1324.07	880.63	1.85
Dow Jones	10683.58	117.70	1.11	10785.72	7400.30	1.43
Nikkei	16665.88	170.95	1.04	17156.06	12787.50	0.76
Hang Seng	0.00	389.78	3.11	13079.50	6544.79	2.71
Dax	0.00	55.53	1.03	6217.83	3833.71	1.57
S&P 500	1349.47	14.03	1.05	1362.38	923.32	1.19
Nasdaq	2538.00	52.78	2.12	2630.52	1357.09	0.28
Toronto 300	7021.10	0.00	0.00	7837.70	5320.90	1.49
Brazil Bovespa	11115.55	124.92	1.14	12028.15	4575.89	2.54
Bolsa Mex20	3246.23	11.48	0.35	3713.21	2696.26	2.02
Amsterdam Eux	561.56	6.35	1.14	600.65	366.58	1.84
France CAC 40	0.00	25.00	0.91	4416.00	2881.21	1.69
Milan MIB30	36598.00	-95.00	-0.18	39170.00	24175.00	1.11
Madrid Ibex 35	0.00	23.70	0.24	10989.80	6969.90	1.83
Irish Overall	0.00	122.18	2.31	5581.70	3732.57	1.51
S Korea Comp	0.00	-2.06	-0.39	780.73	277.37	0.93
Australia ASX	3118.30	9.00	0.29	3116.90	2386.70	3.00

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.32	-2.18	5.35	-2.15	4.53	-1.32	4.48	-1.28
US	5.00	-0.69	5.25	-0.62	5.22	0.45	5.58	0.38
Japan	0.15	-0.51	0.21	-0.46	1.49	-0.30	2.24	-0.15
Germany	2.59	-1.05	2.68	-1.26	3.85	-1.09	4.82	-0.66

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
Dollar	1.6130	+0.52c	1.6728	+0.20c	0.9278	-0.20c	0.9278	-0.20c
Euro	1.5204	+0.83c	1.4079	+0.94c	0.9425	-11.93c	0.8571	-11.93c
Yen	199.24	+0.67	218.10	+0.67	119.69	-0.09	130.51	-0.09
E index	104.10	+0.30	106.20	+0.30	106.70	-0.10	109.00	-0.10

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Class	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Most figs
Brent Oil (\$)	0.00	0.01	13.48	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
Gold (\$)	283.55	-0.40	313.35	RPI	164.10	2.10	160.72
Silver (\$)	5.15	0.04	6.31	Base rates	5.25	7.25	

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.3988	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.90
Austria (schillings)	20.14	Netherlands (guilder)	3.2280
Belgium (francs)	59.21	New Zealand (\$)	2.8211
Canada (\$)	2.3262	Norway (kroner)	12.17
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8453	Portugal (escudos)	292.45
Denmark (kroner)	10.96	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8543
Finland (markka)	8.7406	Singapore (\$)	2.6261
France (francs)	9.6152	South Africa (rand)	9.3955
Germany (marks)	2.8757	Spain (pesetas)	243.40
Greece (drachma)	479.70	Sweden (kronor)	13.15
Hong Kong (\$)	12.08	Switzerland (francs)	2.3587
Ireland (pounds)	1.1528	Thailand (bahts)	55.55
India (rupees)	61.70	Turkey (liras)	602.665
Israel (shekels)	5.9780	USA (\$)	1.5695
Italy (lira)	2851		
Japan (yen)	189.29		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8543		
Malta (lira)	0.6225		

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

Kill off this ill-conceived monstrosity

THE LOGICAL venue to unveil a merged company which will sport twin head offices in Bonn and Rome might have been Paris. But Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia knew full well they would have been lynched yesterday had they stepped foot on French soil.

Their deal, announced instead in the relative safety of London, neatly drives a massive wedge into the Germans' existing joint venture with France Telecom and made all yesterday's grand talk of a new European powerhouse in telecoms ring rather hollow.

But French anger is the least of the obstacles this ill-conceived "merger of equals" faces.

It is not very long ago that the two companies were overblown state-owned monopolies and indeed the German government still controls 72 per cent of Deutsche Telekom. There is scant evidence that much has changed. There is, it seems, no intention of offending the trade union nominees who will pack the supervisory board by taking the axe to the combined workforce of 300,000. Even the one billion euros in cost savings being forecast, a modest sum given their combined sales of 60bn euros, may prove a tall order to achieve.



OUTLOOK

The two sides have yet to dream up a name for this monstrosity (Euro.telecom?) but they have had plenty of fun drawing up management flow charts. The chairmanship of the 20-strong supervisory board will rotate on a huggins turn basis between a German and an Italian. More worrying is how the twin chief executives, Franco Bernabè and Ron Sommer, will co-exist. Mr Bernabè's quip that one man will ski while the other works was apparently meant as a joke but few took it as such on these Anglo-Saxon shores.

In any case, the Bernabè-Sommer double act will with luck never get to play management musical. The regulatory hurdles are daunting. The

other clincher is price. Following yesterday's retreat by Deutsche shares, the merger values Telecom Italia shares at 11.77 euros compared with the 11.50 euros on offer from the rival suitor Olivetti, which has already jumped through all the regulatory hoops.

That is a derisory premium given the year of regulatory uncertainty that Telecom Italia shareholders will have to endure without any guarantee of a satisfactory outcome.

Cyclical stocks

THE MUCH trumpeted switch in stock market sentiment from growth to traditional, cyclical stocks may already have run out of steam, judging by the bounce back in technology issues over the last two days. Even so, a quite significant shift in fashion seems to have occurred in recent months. Since the beginning of March, there has been a pronounced run up in industrial and other cyclical stocks across Europe. IT, telecoms and pharmaceuticals have meanwhile fallen behind.

These trends are more pronounced on the Continent than they are in Britain, where the strong

pound continues to damage traditional manufacturers, but even here the extraordinarily wide disparity in valuations built up in recent years has begun to narrow. If this helps manufacturers and leads to a more balanced approach to investment, it cannot be anything but a healthy development. But is it going to last?

There are obviously a number of good reasons for going back into cyclical stocks. The economic outlook is now much better than it was six months ago, while the turnaround in the oil and some other commodity prices has bolstered the view that maybe there's some earnings growth to be had from these companies after all.

In any case, with yields of 6 per cent and upwards and no sign of a dividend cut in sight, let alone deeper rooted financial problems, quite a lot of these stocks have begun to look exceptionally good value.

So there is no quarrel with the idea that cyclical stocks have been oversold and demand a rerating. More contentious is the belief in some quarters that the growth stocks of the IT, telecoms and life science sectors have had their day. Some areas of the IT industry in particular have become absurdly overhyped and over-

valued - most notably anything to do with the internet. Even so, most of the factors that have driven up share prices in these sectors still apply.

In a low inflation, low growth environment, any industry or company with good earnings growth potential has a scarcity value and must therefore command a corresponding premium. Obviously, there's going to be a reckoning if they fail to deliver, but in many cases, the horizon in expectations is so distant that this doesn't look likely to happen any time soon.

What is certainly true, perhaps sadly, is that the shifting sands of sentiment have again demonstrated the investment advantages of indexation and the perils of stock selection. There are a few active fund managers, most notably Phillips and Drew, that have chosen to stick with value methods of stock selection through thick and thin, and they will have had the full benefit of the recent uplift in cyclical stocks. But most have not, choosing instead to follow the herd into the growth sectors. Relative to the market, they will have done quite badly so far this year.

However, those invested across the market as a whole will have bare-

ly noticed the rotation effect. What they've lost on the swings, they've gained on the roundabouts.

JJB Sports

THE ACQUISITION by JJB Sports of its rival, Sports Division, seems to have been a deal made in hell. JJB has suffered chronic indigestion since. By February the problems of integration had got so bad that even when there were customers to be had, there was no stock to service them. At Sports Division outlets, popular items like size nine trainers were often not to be found.

However, JJB's problems may be symptoms of a wider malaise. Sports retailing seems to be a market that has gone off the boil. Demand is on the wane. The attraction of replica football shirts has worn off. Price cutting seems to have done nothing to rekindle consumer interest. Even trainers, the stable diet of all sports shops, are being challenged by "outdoor" footwear like Timberland shoes and the smarter, more formal ranges sold in fashion shops.

But there is a much deeper problem. The quality of sports retailing in Britain is, in put it bluntly, so poor

that it is hardly surprising so few people want to avail themselves of its services. In terms of price, quality of product, choice and service, JJB and Sports Division are so far behind their American counterparts that there really is no comparison.

Many of these outlets are not sports shops at all, but clothing retailers selling branded T-shirts and the like at high prices. Try buying a cricket bat, or an item of bowls equipment. In the US, the market leaders like Sports Authority sell huge ranges, from canoes to rock climbing accessories. They don't run out stock and the shopping experience is made to be pleasurable.

Fortunately, help may be on the way, although it won't be of much assistance to downtrodden JJB shareholders. Later this spring Decathlon, a subsidiary of a privately owned French group, plans to open a huge sports store in London's Docklands with more openings in the pipeline.

With Wal-Mart executives reported to have met Tony Blair at Downing Street last month, it is clear that international retailers are eyeing up the UK market as never before. Looking at the service provided by some of our stores groups, you can see why.

M&C to buy 43 hotels for £438m

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

MILLENNIUM & COPTHORNE, the UK hotels group, yesterday unveiled a surprise deal to acquire 43 international hotels from its majority Asian shareholder for £438m.

The deal includes hotels across South-East Asia as well as in Australia and New Zealand and transforms the company into the largest pure hotels group on the UK stock market with 67 locations. It also represents a gamble on the recovery of Asian economies.

The deal is being funded via a £556m, 13 for 20 rights issue priced at 46p per share. CDL, which brought Millennium & Copthorne to the market in 1996 and still owns 52 per cent of the group, is taking up its rights in full. The shares closed 0.5p lower at 579.5p.

Kwek Leng Beng, Millennium & Copthorne's chairman, said the deal would enable the group to compete in a rapidly consolidating market.

He said the number of high profile mergers, combined with the difficulty of buying Asian hotels, had precipitated the deal.

He also said that Asian markets were undervaluing hotel assets and the UK management team was better equipped to run the enlarged chain.

"The deal offers us unprecedented entry into Asian markets which have traditionally been hard to penetrate and, at a time when we are see-



John Wilson (left), chief executive of Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, and Kwek Leng Beng, chairman, who are banking on recovery in Asian markets. Colin Beere

ing signs of recovery in the region, position us for further international growth," he said.

However, UK institutional shareholders responded with caution, questioning whether the asset swap was more in favour of CDL than minority shareholders.

One said: "At first glance the deal looks expensive and we have not been given the usual asset value by which to judge it. You could say it means CDL

is reducing its risk in Asia while giving UK investors a greater exposure."

But Mr Kwek said the deal was being struck at the bottom of the cycle for Millennium & Copthorne shareholders, with Asian economies starting to improve.

John Wilson, the group's chief executive, added: "You have to take your own view as to where we are in the cycle but our belief is that Asia has hit-

tomed out and there are serious improvements to come in that part of the world."

The deal includes eight hotels in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, 31 in Australia and New Zealand with the rest in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

In a trading update, Millennium & Copthorne said the first three months of the year showed steady revenue growth.

Jump in retail sales and home loans brings cheer

THERE WAS fresh evidence yesterday that the British economy was on course for a soft landing after new figures revealed both a jump in high street sales and a sharp rise in mortgage lending.

Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggested the mild March weather helped tempt consumers back into the shops, with retail sales up a seasonally adjusted 0.4 per cent over the month.

The timing of Easter - which fell earlier this year than in 1998 - could have distorted the figures, analysts warned. But even after allowing for these uncertainties, the underlying trend in retail sales was firmer. Dharshini David, economist at HSBC investment bank, said:

BY LEA PATERSON

"There is little doubt that the sharp fall in base rates - which has already pushed up consumer confidence - is beginning to show up in the hard data."

Sales of both clothes and household goods were sharply higher. According to ONS figures, clothing and footwear sales, measured in volume terms, were up 0.5 per cent last month and have risen by 2.1 per cent over the first quarter.

Sales of household goods were up 0.3 per cent over the month and 3.7 per cent over the quarter. However, recent retail price data suggests this growth in volumes has come at the expense of margins. Separate data provided by

the Credit Card Research Group (CCRG) for March also indicated improved high street trading.

Debit card spending was up 19.2 per cent compared to a year ago, the CCRG said, while credit card spending was almost 15 per cent higher.

London stocks rose sharply amid the growing confidence in the economic outlook. The FTSE 100 index closed up 102.6 points at 6,413.6, with new share price records on Wall Street also helping sentiment.

On the currency markets, the pound jumped to a new record close of 65.76 pence against the euro.

Meanwhile, figures provided by UK banks and building societies revealed there was a

surge in mortgage lending last month. The Building Societies Association said lending figures were at their highest since last summer, with gross building society advances up to £2.3bn in March from £1.3bn in February.

A sharp rise in mortgage loans also contributed to healthy bank lending figures, according to the British Bankers' Association (BBA). Bank lending to the M4 private sector rose by £4.1bn in March, the BBA said, markedly up from February and well above the recent monthly average.

Separate Bank of England figures showed that the growth rate of M4 - a broad measure of money supply - was a subdued 0.4 per cent in March.

Wassall says BICC rejects bid

WASSALL, the bidder for BICC, the engineering group, yesterday said BICC's board had rejected an increased £756m takeover offer without discussion.

Wassall yesterday urged shareholders to persuade the board to change its mind at the last minute and recommend the informal offer. The Takeover Panel on Wednesday imposed a deadline of 1pm today, after which Wassall must end the informal approaches.

Wassall, a bottle tops to travel goods maker, said it was prepared to bid 125p in cash for each ordinary BICC share. Earlier this year the group made another informal bid of 90p.

BY ANDREW VERITY

Wassall will also offer £1.25 of £1 nominal value 10.75 per cent loan stock for every convertible preference share, with a partial cash alternative of £1.15 per preference share.

The announcement was made after the market closed, with BICC ordinary shares standing at 107p in expectation of a further bid of 110p.

The 125p bid is an informal offer, which Wassall claims is necessary because BICC's board has refused to talk to its executives.

Chris Miller, Wassall's chief executive, said: "We believe

our offers are generous and fully reflect the value of BICC, whose ordinary shares were a mere 57p before the disclosure of our stake in November 1998."

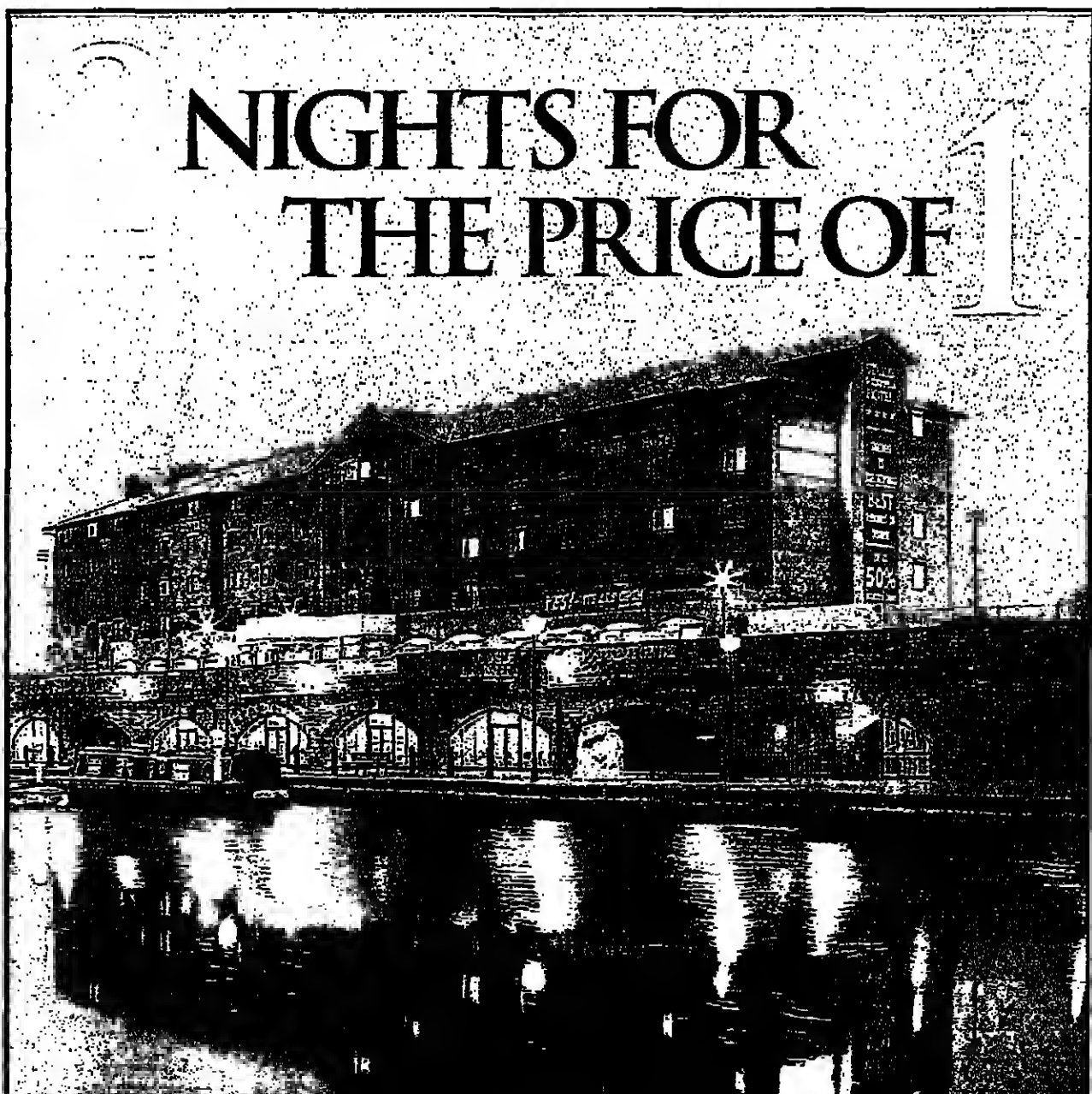
"We note that the BICC board has never explained to us why offers at 125p undervalue BICC. As we have said consistently, we are not prepared to make an offer without a board recommendation and therefore if BICC shareholders wish our offers to proceed they must act now."

Last night Alan Jones, chief executive of BICC, contradicted this. He said the board had written to Wassall today to say why the bid had been rejected.

Mr Jones told *The Independent* he had already had one shareholder telephone to urge him to consider the increased offer carefully. He added that others were urging him to reject it.

"What I'm going to tell them is that actually the value of Balfour Beatty (the BICC division) has increased enormously in recent months."

"Secondly, our PFI projects are a sleeping item of great value. The hard cold fact is that when we go away from the board meeting tomorrow we must deliver and I am confident of that," Mr Jones said.



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Recession-watch shifts to Berlin



HAMISH MCRAE

If Germany's economy is still contracting, there will be shock waves across Europe

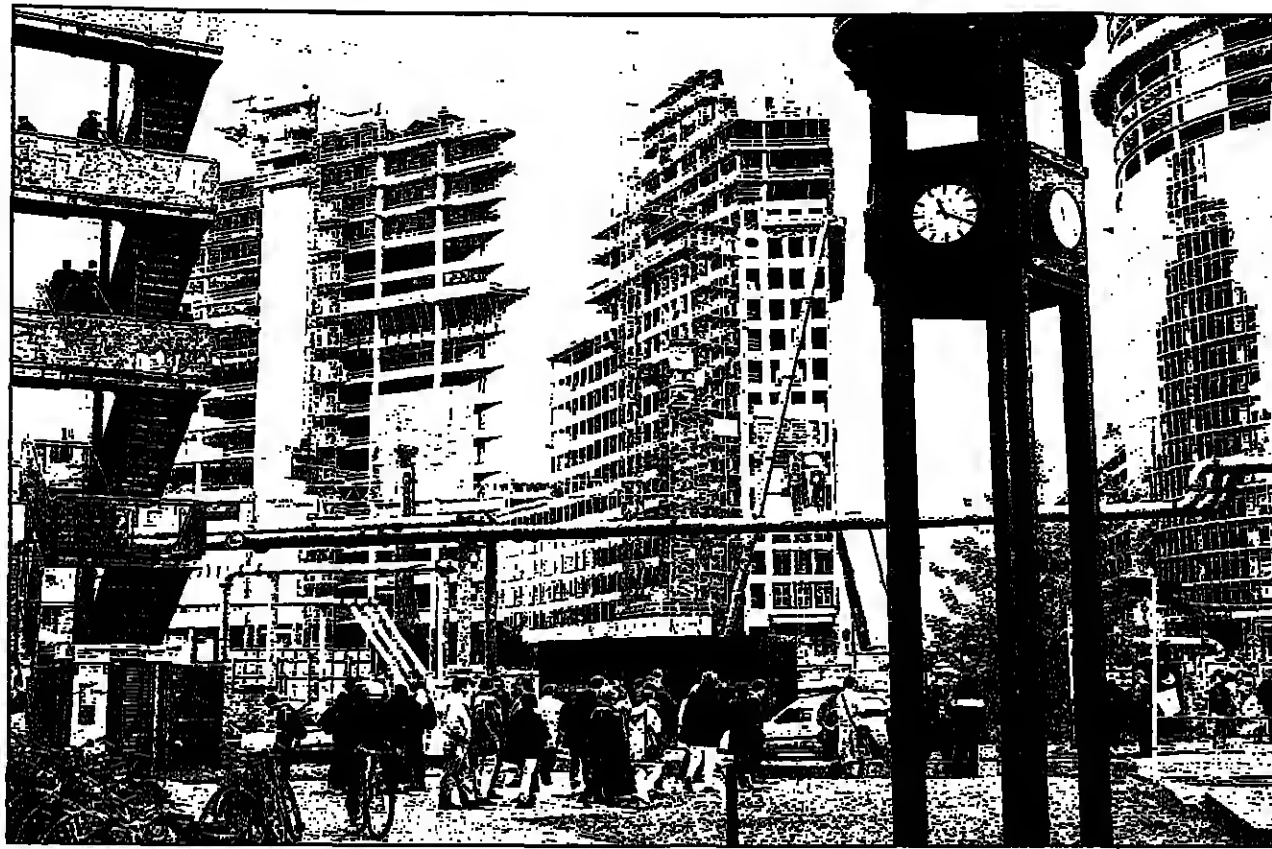
IT LOOKS as though we can stop worrying about the UK economy for this year - or at least about domestic demand, for the plight of exporters remains serious. Good retail sales and more general signs of confidence in the housing market suggest there is now virtually no danger of recession, and the main issue will be whether growth turns out to be closer to 2 per cent than 1 per cent.

So the focus of Europe's recession-watchers shifts. And it must shift to Germany, for there is a real possibility that Germany has just experienced recession. We don't yet have GDP data for the first quarter of this year, but we know that the economy shrank by 0.4 per cent in the last quarter of 1998. We know too that retail sales were dreadful in February and that exports have been very weak. It is probable that there has been a recovery in retail sales in March, for surveys of retailers were cheerful and in any case private consumption has not been quite as low as retail sales. But exports have probably remained weak and will stay weak through the first half of this year if the statistics for new foreign orders are any guide (see graphs).

We will have to wait a bit longer to know whether Germany will qualify for a technical recession, the definition of which is two successive quarters of negative growth. Most private sector forecasters think Germany will just squeak by without it, both Deutsche Bank and HSBC, for example, are predicting 0.3 per cent growth. But if they are wrong, there will be a shock wave across Europe. This is not what was meant to happen.

What is happening, though? A brief visit to Berlin last week reminded me of the enormous differences, both regional and structural, that characterise Europe's largest economy. Berlin is not Germany, any more than London is England, but you can see both sides to the economy.

Go to Potsdamer Platz and you see around you the largest building site in Europe. Walk the side streets in the older East Berlin residential districts and



Behind the booming activity at Europe's biggest building site at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin lies a stagnant economy ill-equipped to create jobs, with government having few levers to stimulate demand

they are full of middle-aged men doing nothing.

Looked at from a distance, Berlin is booming. The quality standards, not just of the construction industry but also of the service industries, mirror the standards of manufacturing that made Germany the world's largest exporter. But viewed up close the weaknesses, particularly in job creation, become more apparent. In Berlin, one in six of the workforce is unemployed.

IN A WAY the demand for quality - the thing that brings Germany its extraordinary success - is also a curse, for it brings with it a demand for quality employees, and thereby excludes the less well trained, the less able, and even the less lucky. It is a wonderful economy at creating quality goods but a dreadful one for creating jobs.

In one sense demography will help, for the German workforce is falling in size. That will limit the extent to which unemployment can rise. But in another sense that is a disaster, for although the workforce shrinks, the number of mouths to feed does not. So taxes will have to be even higher to support the social welfare costs.

This failure on the jobs front is primarily a long-term problem, while the stagnant demand this year is primarily a short-term one. But the former depresses the latter - fear of unemployment is a constant depressing factor on consumers' willingness to spend, as Japanese experience has taught us. Germany is not yet in Japan's position, where every effort to stimulate the economy seems to fail, and where bank-

ing weakness compounds economic weakness, but there are uncomfortable parallels.

And, unlike Japan, Germany no longer has control of its monetary policy. After that interest-rate cut to 2.5 per cent earlier this month, it cannot now expect any further monetary easing except as a by-product of the possible further decline in the euro.

Looking ahead, what should anyone trying to "call" the German economy look for?

As there is not likely to be any help on the monetary side, don't look there. Look a little at fiscal policy, for while there will be no direct effect on the economy this year - the lags are far too long for that - business and consumer sentiment will be profoundly affected by the way the government handles tax issues. Many people in the business community were disappointed that the planned reforms to company taxation were not modified once Oskar Lafontaine had resigned. Were the government now to start a constructive dialogue with business, really asking, "What do you want from us?", it could have a considerable effect on confidence. But we will have to see.

Consumers, for their part, will want to know what plans the government has for value-added tax. The main rate of VAT, 15 per cent, is low by European standards, which has led to suggestions that it will be raised. Were that to happen, Germany would risk the same damage to consumer demand as Japan imposed when it lifted the sales tax.

The problem is not so much the money raised, rather the

psychological impact on the people who have to pay it. If you look at the total numbers, there is no leeway to cut taxation in Germany and remain within the Maastricht limits. So the only hope is to find ways of fine-tuning the tax system to encourage German consumers to be a bit less responsible - save less and spend more. Not an easy task. If you have no control over monetary policy and virtually no

leeway on fiscal policy what is there left? Answer - structural policies.

That is really the area on which Germany-watchers should focus. Is Germany ready to deregulate? If so, will there be a series of minor chips off the corners of the regulatory edifice? Or is more radical change possible? I don't know the answer, but I know that is the key question.

Duo expelled for insider trading

THE FINANCIAL Services Authority, the City watchdog, yesterday expelled Bill Dootson and Paul Sharples, two former stockbrokers with the Manchester firm of Henry Cooke Lumsden, from the securities industry, for profiting from insider dealing.

The disciplinary action came after an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry into share price dealings ahead of the 1995 takeover of Fine Decor failed to find sufficient evidence to justify criminal prosecution.

Mr Dootson was also fined £10,000 and required to pay costs of £20,000, while Mr Sharples was fined £5,000 and asked to pay £5,000 costs.

Mr Dootson, who was head of Henry Cooke's Manchester private client business, has denied acting on inside information.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

Both have since left the firm following internal disciplinary proceedings.

According to the FSA, Mr Dootson and Mr Sharples profited by over £11,000 when they took advantage of a tip off that a bid was in the offing for Fine Decor, a quoted company, to buy shares on their own account.

When a few days later a bid approach materialised, Mr Sharples and Mr Dootson realised that the tip off must have come from an insider.

According to the FSA, Mr Dootson and Mr Sharples continued to deal on the basis of information supplied by the insider. The claim, it is claimed, at times resorted to the use of a mobile phone to avoid detection. Mr Sharples also allegedly en-

couraged other clients to buy shares in the company, and some did so. Both Mr Dootson and Mr Sharples later sold their shares at a profit.

The dealings are believed to have emerged after a routine investigation by the London Stock Exchange into the sharp rise in Fine Decor's shares in October 1995, just before the bid.

Neither Mr Sharples nor Mr Dootson were available yesterday for comment.

Henry Cooke said yesterday the firm had co-operated fully with the regulators. "The group values highly its strong investment management reputation, and wishes to emphasise that at no time were client assets put at risk and no client has suffered a loss as a result of this matter. The investigation focused on the personal dealings of the employees involved."

700 jobs to go at East Midlands

POWERGEN yesterday said 700 jobs were to be cut over the next two years at East Midlands Electricity under its restructuring plans for the regional supplier.

Separately, PowerGen was given an extra two months to sell two plants, with a new deadline of 30 June. The company said it was still in a position to announce the sale of Ferrybridge and Fiddlers Ferry by the end of April.

IN BRIEF

"This just allows competition authorities to complete all the consulting and approvals," PowerGen said.

Correction

ICI HAS asked us to correct a reference to the company in an article yesterday about Prudential and Stock Exchange rules. The facts are: on the morning of the announcement of the sale of

assets to Huntsman Corporation, it was not ICI but Huntsman which, apparently via an agency, issued a press announcement of the deal while negotiations were still proceeding. ICI refused to confirm the announcement as no deal had been reached and made a specific request to the Stock Exchange for its shares to be temporarily suspended to prevent a false market. The deal was concluded later that morning and trading resumed.

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Late bid by Miller triggers contest for builder Cala

MILLER, the private Scottish construction and housebuilding company, triggered a late bid for Cala, the Edinburgh-based quoted housebuilder, by putting in a last-minute cash bid of 175p a share.

The offer topped the 165p-a-share cash bid on 15 March by Dootrell, the buyout vehicle for Cala's management team led by chairman Alan Dootrell and backed by Bank of Scotland. Mr Dootrell said yesterday the management team would come back shortly with a higher offer. Miller has bought a 1.1 per cent stake in Cala, and secured the approval of the two non-executive directors, Lord Razzall and Donald Sutherland. Miller's

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

offer has the conditional support of institutions holding a further 19.6 per cent of Cala.

Cala built about 600 homes last year, which contributed 80 per cent of group profits of £10.9m in the year to the end of June. It is expected to make £12m and earnings of 17.3p in the current year.

Miller began housebuilding three years ago and housing contributed only 30 per cent of last year's group profit of £14.8m. Miller Homes built 1,100 units last year after hiring Geoff Pott from Bryant Homes to build up the division.

Acquiring Cala would give

Miller a foothold in the housing market in England and the capacity to build 2,000 homes a year, and turn the company into a largely housebuilding operation, chief executive Keith Miller said.

Its other activities include property development, civil engineering, urban regeneration and contract mining in Scotland, Wales and Yorkshire.

Cala - the former City of Aberdeen Land Association - is a listed company and has suffered from neglect by UK institutions. Two months ago the shares languished at 87.5p, little more than five-times forecast earnings. Yesterday they leaped 31p to 184.5p.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Amalgamated (F)	120.1m (82.8m)	7.1m (7.8m)	16.2p (17.1p)	7.5p (7.5p)	01.07.99	24.05.99
Ball (F)	27.43m (20.8m)	8.72m (5.98m)	12.8p (14.3p)	5.4p (4.4p)	17.08.99	04.05.99
Dalmeida Group (F)	208.05m (274.9m)	2.94m (6.05m)	2.2p (10.4p)	2p (6.3p)	18.08.99	17.05.99
Albert Fraser Group (F)	43.3m (47.7m)	-5.4m (-22.2m)	-6.27p (-3.83p)	nil (1.85p)	-	-
Forrester (F)	36.1m (28.6m)	3.4m (4.2m)	8.04p (10.15p)	5.41p (3.37p)	10.06.99	8p
Hawthorn Group (F)	79.402m (76.16m)	1.502m (6.077m)	3.8p (14.8p)	5.5p (4.75p)	05.07.99	01.06.99
Imperial Chemical Ind (I)	2.157m (2.170m)	1.433m (4.761m)	2.22p (2.85p)	-	-	-
Principles Group (F)	53.776m (57.76m)	1.359m (1.725m)	27.38p (25.41p)	8.40p (6.75p)	02.07.99	24.05.99
LAN Sports (F)	372.97m (203.58m)	36.11m (54.18m)	0.2p (4.8p)	-	-	-
Principles Group (F)	42.63m (51.02m)	1.589m (1.725m)	0.2p (4.8p)	-	-	-
Plantation & General Inv (F)	286.183m (294.11m)	-14.88m (0.703m)	-25.78p (0.32p)	-	-	-
Style (F)	4.100m (5.677m)	-1.500m (0.031m)	-21.31p (1.44p)	-	-	-
Water Hall Group (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-

(F) - Field (I) - Income (Q) - Quarterly

RF Code	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	TM	52WK	Ends
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4970	1400	220	SPS Gas	4460 ± 0.5	15	274	8071
4980	1,060	220	SPS Gas	7834 ± 0.6	-	281	8080
4990	1,120	220	SPS Gas	1282.0	0.0	0.0	9245
5000	1,280	225	167 Shasta Ind	100.0	50	24	265 770
5010	1,360	116	SHL Gas	2163.0	0.0	17	211
5020	2,296	69	37 Shasta Group	44.0	0.0	0.5	4.9 100
5030	2,260	69	37 Shasta Group	43.0	0.0	-	7.0 2023
5040	2,364	52	25 Shasta Group	130.0 ± 0.0	32	16.9	
5050	2,364	52	25 Shasta Group	122.0 ± 0.0	17.0	100	2000
5060	2,364	52	25 Shasta Group	305.0	0.0	12	
5070	2,364	52	25 Shasta Group	176.5 ± 0.0	13	28.0	4736
5080	2,364	52	25 Shasta Group	59.0	0.0	17	151 4412
5090	2,364	52	25 Shasta Group	305.5 ± 0.5	2.5	13	442 5946
5100	1,810	50	41 Universal Star				
5110	1,842	44	41 Universal Star				
5120	1,842	44	41 Universal Star				
5130	1,842	44	41 Universal Star				
5140	2,061	39	39 Vega Gas				

TELECOMMUNICATIONS		3.5M	
205	97 Atlantic Telecom	27.0	+0.8
1,794	630 ST	258.8	23.8
889	394 Cables & Wireless	19.8	3.3
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205	97 Atlantic Telecom	27.0	+0.8
1,794	630 ST	258.8	23.8
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205	97 Atlantic Telecom	27.0	+0.8
1,794	630 ST	258.8	23.8
889	394 Cables & Wireless	19.8	3.3
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1.1	1,474	80	Orange	651.5	21.8	0	471
7.8	2017						
10.2	2035			576.8	17.5	0.8	81.2
4.1	1038			262.8	8.8	0	236
20.3	1412			1,125.2	63.7	0.2	55.7
5.4	7708						
6.4	1410						
35.5	9059						
16.7	1433			408.8	22.5	5.3	22.1
18.7	1434			355.0	24.0	0.5	11.0
14.0	1344			614.3	18.3	0.3	13.9
78.3	41						
22.8	3072						
16.4	3105						
TOBACCO							
674	238	Black Amber Tob		408.8	22.5	5.3	22.1
490	300	Golden		355.0	24.0	0.5	11.0
783	41	Bright Tob		614.3	18.3	0.3	13.9
TRANSPORT							
116	25	AB Appliances		41.5	-0.5		2394

122	1163	182	4 A Ports	2645 ± 2.5	42	125	100
164	1250	182	21 Alpha Arms	10.5 ± 1.0	7.9	165	110
164	1250	182	21 Alpha Arms	46.5 ± 7.5	37	130	100
177	1361	372	25 Alpha	32.5 ± 0.8	8.8	124	90A
178	7006	372	10 Acoustic	25.0 ± 1.0	1.8	131	100B
182	1885	254	21 Awa Ear	106.0 ± 8.0	228	243	700B
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182	1885						

[illegible]

133	1,629	62.1	65.5	23.3	192
134	560	Powerl. Div.	611.5	24.7	172
135	1174	51.4	51.4	24.7	171
136	1421	35.2	Petroleum	1263.0	24.4
137	24	4365	249	24.3	161
138	152	2795	565	24.3	161
139	477	30	Payroll Mgmt.	459	24.3
140	139	30	Software (S)	612.5	24.2
141	105	1083	286	24.2	158
142	105	1083	286	24.2	158
143	105	1083	286	24.2	158
144	105	1083	286	24.2	158
145	105	1083	286	24.2	158
146	105	1083	286	24.2	158
147	105	1083	286	24.2	158
148	105	1083	286	24.2	158
149	105	1083	286	24.2	158
150	105	1083	286	24.2	158
151	105	1083	286	24.2	158
152	105	1083	286	24.2	158
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362</					

WATER		0.025	
1537	1,804 586 Argonne	686.0	-2.0 70 157 4013
44.6 4038	50 45 Argonne W	59.5	0.0 70 1 246
	1,568 156 Argonne H	145.5	0.0 48 0 310
	529 453 Oak Ridge	46.0	0.0 32 0 392
1106	309 387 Oak Sarney	288.0	-0.5 58 0 575
52.0 474	1,046 147 Hyatt	75.0	3.5 7.5 - 0.5
201 3275	75 635 Mid West Holdings	61.5	0.0 0 0 375
18.4 3830	1,178 587 Pleasant Gap	81.0	0.0 3.5 0 11
28 3257	1,186 789 Brown Town	67.5	0.0 3.0 106.5 15
4.0 1759	4,025 3275 South Oaks	370.0	0.0 2.6 14.3 5727
40.5 1902	1,896 943 Thummet	58.5	10.0 5.4 32.2 411
			180

215	577	678	West Shingles	795.0	-6.0	81	172.2	4819
719	452	458	272 North Vanities	406.0	0.1	12	578	
881	2013	590	424 Vanities	437.5	0.3	56	38.4	010
54								
2551								
460	2595	300	300 A. de Greeff Highway	200.0	0.0	48	19.2	460
734	1305	173	Alexis Penn P.L.C.	245.0	0.0	67	18.3	929
443	1932	105	55 Alameda	12.0	0.0	4	1.0	000
125	92	125	92 AMCO Company	34.2	0.0	3.6	0.3	4606
2031	2538	333	255 Aron Street Doors	267.5	0.0	8.4	0.3	8099
110	1139	118	41 Avonlea	61.5	0.5			175
103	2597	189	83 Ayrault Ave P.L.C.	17.5	0.0			180
553	243	543	Adel Peak	550.0	0.5	3.3	0.7	463

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385	310	45	Consens PLC	268.0	-1.0	18	-18.9	364.0
386	70	10	Competition Ltd	26.0	-0.0	13	-13.0	26.0
387	157	108	Conoco	126.5	-1.0	23	-23.0	156.7
388	201	741	38	Deep-Sun Lake	230.0	0.0	33	33.0
389	156	10	Debitex Bank	337.5	0.0	1.9	1.9	164.182
390	24	1141	56	Degussa Holdings	245.0	0.0	1.8	71.2
391	314	1023	58	Dege	547.5	22.5	12	12.0
392	100	454	78	Dege	547.5	22.5	12	12.0
393	347	1203	75	Electronic Publishing	110.0	0.0	0.0	2948
394	197	2840	6	Embridge	739.0	4.0	7.1	7.1
395	473	15	East Asia Finance	37.0	0.0	6.4	35.4	37.0
396	139	267	14	Fluorid Group	476.5	0.0	5.0	5.0
397	139	267	14	Fluorid Group	476.5	0.0	5.0	5.0
398	139	267	14	Fluorid Group	476.5	0.0	5.0	5.0
399	139	267	14	Fluorid Group	476.5	0.0	5.0	5.0
400	403	61	Gal Thromex Evr	46.5	0.0	2.2	7.8	1130

22	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
23	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
24	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
25	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
26	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
27	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
28	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
29	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
30	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
31	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
32	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
33	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
34	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
35	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
36	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
37	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
38	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
39	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
40	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
41	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
42	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
43	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
44	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
45	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
46	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
47	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
48	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
49	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
50	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
51	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
52	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
53	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
54	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
55	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
56	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
57	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
58	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
59	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
60	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
61	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
62	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
63	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
64	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
65	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
66	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
67	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
68	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
69	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
70	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
71	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
72	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
73	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
74	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
75	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
76	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
77	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
78	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
79	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
80	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
81	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
82	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
83	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
84	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
85	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
86	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
87	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
88	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
89	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
90	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
91	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
92	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
93	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
94	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
95	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
96	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
97	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
98	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
99	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0
100	250	28	14	Walter	53.0	-2.5	7.0	53.0	64.0

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155	121	Midland Group	104.5	0	9.2	401
156	47	Minority Share	121.5	-7.0		2633
157	188	Norway Group	270.4	25	21.7	424
158	1	1 MW Sports Dry	1.1	0.2		326
159	178	4 MMT Group PLC	168.0	7.5		1248
160	7	20 Holland Forum	25.0	0.0		1870
161	19	KSB Steel Steel	410.0	0.5	48.1	370
162	35	Odyssey Biomedica	20.8	0.6		1559
163	158	Penn Diamonds	72.5	0.0		2110
164	25	Polyester Master Dry	242.7	1.5	41.0	372
165	138	10.8	10.8			1228
166	233	116 Polydex PLC	195.0	0.0		1571
167	39	Polynorm Plastics	46.5	1.5		4067
168	7	2 Penitentiary Dry	3.6	0.0		37.5
169	121	1624				1001

1020	119	60	D Group (TSP) PLG1217.5	1.0	0.6	114	1654	
1030	117	600	215	Remco Energy	325.0	+10.0	-	2830
1040	117	3082	97	Smith Tech Eng	18.5	0.0	-	2830
1050	117	2562	100	Remco V Corp	37.5	0.0	-	2830
1060	121	1623	343	100 Remco Group	97.5	0.0	2.5	143
1070	121	2631	244	137 Systems Systems	216.0	0.0	0.0	246
1080	125	3570	19	4 Siler Energy	7.0	0.5	-	2630
1090	126	1150	105	8000 Solutions	70.5	0.0	-	3074
1100	123	4264	150	138 Software	339.5	+0.0	-	2613
1110	127	1797	4	4 Soteris	26.7	0.0	-	1672
1120	135	0847	173	113 Style Holdings	116.0	0.0	1.5	217
1130	144	2440	94	144 Technology Gr	146.5	1.0	0.2	2145
1140	167	14	376	FRACKER Networks	525.0	0.0	0.5	213

Rank	Company	Price	Change	Volume
31	0 Wainry Corp	7.0	0.0	1301
32	45 International Holdings	24.5	0.0	546
33	16 Westmont Energy	77.5	0.0	212
34	55 World Telecom	58.0	1.5	2007
35	199 Zango	7.5	-	4824

RECENT ISSUES			
Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Amstar Media	58.5	0.0	3053

0.0	6212	Glaxo-Cell BioPharm	100.0	0.5	3794
0.0	43	Glaxo-Pharm	225.5	0.0	3554
0.0	1546	OC Composites	247.5	-4.0	8125
0.5	8789	AME Telecom	155.0	0.0	2915
0.1		Chemica	41.5	0.5	3385
0.2	6478	Software	49.0	0.0	2848
0.8	5952				
1.3	7778				
5.3	2642				
-	1401				

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calls cost 60p per minute.

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23	139	257	1	14	Plummet Group	490.5	0.0	3,392
23	157	292	207	Famous Firm	478.5	0.0	912	173
23	200	320	141	Garb Holdings Inc	465.0	0.0	274	1130
23	203	326	100	Garb Holdings Inc	465.0	0.0	274	1507
30	302	434	GB Thompson Inc	178.5	0.0	53.7	674	
32	194	15	15	Garb Holdings Inc	140.5	0.0	129	4
143	254	340	7	Garb Holdings Inc	254.0	0.0	129	4
144	254	340	7	Garb Holdings Inc	254.0	0.0	129	4
145	254	340	7	Garb Holdings Inc	254.0	0.0	129	4
146	254	340	7	Garb Holdings Inc	254.0	0.0	129	4
147	254	340	7	Garb Holdings Inc	254.0	0.0	129	4
148	254	340	7	Garb Holdings Inc	254.0	0.0	129	4
149	254	340	7	Garb Holdings Inc	254.0	0.0	129	4
150	112	200	133	Harc Holdings Group	157.0	0.0	21.8	207
151	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
152	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
153	112	200	133	Harc Holdings Group	157.0	0.0	21.8	207
154	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
155	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
156	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
157	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
158	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
159	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
160	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
161	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
162	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
163	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
164	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
165	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
166	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
167	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
168	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
169	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
170	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
171	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
172	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
173	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
174	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
175	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
176	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
177	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
178	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
179	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
180	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
181	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
182	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
183	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
184	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
185	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
186	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
187	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0	0.0	21.8	207
188	162	268	100	Harc Holdings Group	176.0			

[illegible]

C&W rumours set the phone lines ringing

CABLE & WIRELESS sent dealers scrambling for the phone yesterday on talk of corporate action and the sale of its One2One mobile phone business.

The telecom group rang up a 39.5p rise to 81.5p as buyers moved in. It was one of the star performers in a day when the FTSE 100 posted a three-figure gain on the back of positive US influences.

Demand for C&W was sparked by rumours that it is lining up a merger with deal-burgundy France Telecom.

The Paris-based giant has been left out in the cold by the tie-up between Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia. The German-Italian alliance will probably see the demise of Global One, the global group of Deutsche, France Telecom and Sprint of the US.

With its main partner gone, the spurned French Telecom needs a deal quickly and C&W could be an attractive option.

ML LABORATORIES, a high-flying biotechnology group, rose 13p to 182.5p yesterday.

There is some talk that it is close to clinching a deal with the US firm Merck, the world's largest pharmaceutical company. The agreement is likely to involve a licensing agreement for one of the special inhalers developed by ML. The shares are hovering near their 12-month peak of 197.5p, but are still well below the 468.75p reached three years ago.

The French are keen to expand in China and Hong Kong, where the UK group has had a presence for some time, while Graham Wallace, C&W's recently-appointed chief executive, would like to expand in Europe.

The merger speculation was compounded by whispers that C&W is close to finding a buyer for One2One. The company and its US partner MediaOne have pledged to float or sell the UK's fourth-largest mobile phone operator and price tags range from £8bn to £11bn. The market believes that C&W has opted for a sale, and Deutsche, Mannesmann, the German media giant, or even a US company are touted as possible buyers.

The FTSE 100 was back on the winning trail, soaring 102.6 to 6,413.6, boosted by an inspired Wall Street. The Dow Jones was in buoyant form following Wednesday's all-time high with a strong opening.

London's undercard was also in good nick, with the FTSE 250 closing 28.9 up at 5,782.5 and the Small Cap surging 22.8 higher to 2,508.3 - its highest in 1999.

C&W was not the only telecom high-flyer. Vodafone buzzed 60p higher to 1,135p as fund managers rushed to increase their weightings ahead of the completion of the multi-billion pound takeover of its American rival AirTouch.

The US company's positive first-quarter results helped.

The cable operators were

MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

excited by merger talk. The US group NTL, the third-biggest operator in Britain, has just ditched Newcastle United Football Club and hinted at a deal with Telewest Communications, the UK's second-largest cable group, who is in talks with the market leader Cable & Wireless Communications.

The prospect of a three-way merger beamed the cable companies higher, with CWC moving 16p up to 691p, and Telewest rising 6.5p to 262p.

Colt Telecom, up 54p to 1,138p and the co-owner of Cellnet Securicor, 21.5p higher at 570p, followed the pack.

The old chestnut of a £4.7bn bid by Unilever for the Lem-sip-maker Reckitt & Colman blossomed again.

The prospect of an offer north of 1,000p for Reckitt whetted dealers' appetites. Reckitt fell 32p up to 730p, while Unilever, the producer of Persil, washed 18p higher to 575.5p. Some positive comments by its US rival Colgate on the Latin American market were also well-received.

WPP Group claimed the top spot amid blue-chip risers. The advertising agency jumped 34p to 546.5p after Goldman Sachs said the improving global economy will

higher to 515p. It hopes to join the FTSE 100 next week if the merger between GRE and Sun Life & Provincial is completed. Sector analysts are having a look at its US operations.

The engineers continued their resurrection. Tomkins, the buns-to-guns conglomerate, shot 20.5p higher to 290.5p, while Charter, the rail tracks producer, travelled 23.5p upwards to 445p.

Bid rumours were rife. The pump-maker Weir slashed 9.5p higher to 277.5p on new rumours of a US bid. Jardine Lloyd Thompson, an insurance broker, firmed 9p to 235p on vague talk of an overseas takeover offer.

Shanks & McEwan, the waste disposal group, rose 5p to 229p on recycled rumours of a takeover by the water company Severn Trent. The house-maker Wilson Bowden built a 29p advance to 77p on its inclusion in Dresdner Kleinwort Benson's "Euro-Bubble" list.

BIRSE GROUP, a small construction group, is at the centre of a flurry of speculation.

Rumour has it that the Humber-based builder is soon to be awarded a large contract. But there is also some talk that the slump in the shares from 30p in 1995 to yesterday's 7.5p might attract a predator.

Insiders believe any bid will have to be well into double figures to convince the chairman and chief executive Peter Birse to sell its 20 per cent stake.

The portfolio, which promises low-risk investment in UK cyclical, includes, among others, Capital Radio, up 31p to 803p, and Kingfisher, 38p up to 809.5p.

JTB Sports was out of breath, losing 57.5p to 372.5p, after reporting a slump in sales. The sports retailer's own goal depressed Black Leisure, down 14.5 to 234.5p, and John David Sport, down 4.5p to 139p.

The minnows had a lively session. Denison, an electrical equipment maker, sparked 9p higher to 32p after announcing the sale of its microwave division. The deal should treble its £4m market value.

The merchandising specialist Princesdale soared 2.7p to 10.5p after returning to profit. The drug group Alzime surged 7.5p to 37.5p on confirmation of trials for its obesity drug, French, a textile group, closed 7p up to 41.5p on bid talk. Julian Richer, chairman of the hi-fi group Richer Sounds, has built up a 14.15 per cent stake.

Cala, a Scottish builder, soared 31p to 184.5p after the privately-owned rival Miller launched a 176p-a-share bid, which could be trumped by the management. Fellow builder Henry Boot jumped 30p to 225p on speculation that an offer is near.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.2bn
SEAQ TRADES: 82,050
GILTS: 111.09-0.47

Anglo-American banks on direct move to FTSE 100

ANGLO-AMERICAN, the South African mining conglomerate, expects to move straight into the FTSE 100 index at around number 35 when it completes its restructuring and moves its listing from Johannesburg to London next month.

Inevitably it will attract investment both from sector and share trackers, and as no new shares will be offered there should be strong demand for the shares.

Almost 40 per cent of the restructured company will be held by de Beers, which has indicated it has no intention of reducing its holding.

The founding Oppenheimer family holds a further 6 per cent, tracker funds could require a further 8 to 10 per cent, and international investors are also likely to be oct buyers once the company is reclassified from an emerging market to a European market stock.

The switch is also taking place close to the bottom of the commodity cycle. Metal prices have not yet started to turn up, gold is depressed, and there is

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

still excess capacity in the copper market. But in recent weeks hopes of avoiding a worldwide recession have risen perceptibly.

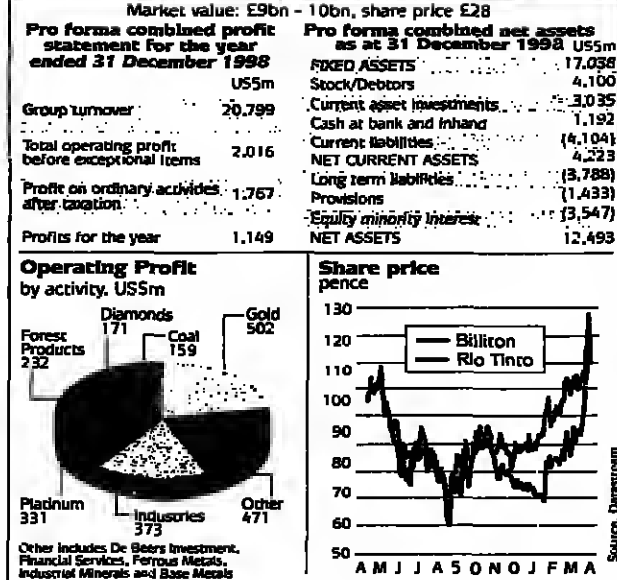
There are signs of returning confidence in East Asian economies that are big consumers of raw materials, and the shares of the two other major mining conglomerates, Rio Tinto and Billiton have surged.

In the course of the move Anglo-American will swap shares for old on a one-for-one basis and make a one-for-two share offer for the shares in Minnorco, the Luxembourg-based mining investment group not already held, and reorganise its other interests.

The restructured company will include large stakes in de Beers, Amplats and AngloGold and seven wholly-owned divisions covering base metals, industrial minerals, ferrous metals, coal, forestry products, industrial holdings and financial services.

A third of its profits come from

ANGLO-AMERICAN AT A GLANCE



precious metals, and about 65 per cent of the assets will still be in South Africa. However, most of the major capital investments over the next five years will be in base metals around the world.

The company starts almost debt-free but it will be in a position to raise finance for future expansion much more cheaply as a London company, the chairman and chief executive Julian

Ogilvy Thompson said yesterday. The new centralised management structure will also force operating divisions to compete directly for development finance.

The shares will be heavy-weight. Pro-forma earnings were 180p a share last year and analysts in South Africa are forecasting a 20 per cent improvement this year.

Analysts in London expect Anglo-American shares to start at a substantial discount to Rio Tinto, which is better known and less exposed to the stagnant gold mining business and is currently trading on just over 20-times 1998 earnings and 22-times forward earnings.

But Anglo-American could quite quickly achieve the same rating as Billiton, which has taken two years to build up support among UK investors. Yesterday it was trading on 20-times forward earnings.

In Johurg existing Anglo American Corporation shares fell yesterday on profit-taking, but rallied to close at 275 rand, about £28.20 at the current rate of exchange.

Albert Fisher set for £40m sell-off ICI posts upbeat results and pledges to cut debt

ALBERT FISHER, the perennially struggling food group, promised further significant disposals yesterday as the new management team attempts to reduce debts and put the group on a more stable financial footing.

Reporting increased first-half losses of £33m after £56m of exceptional charges, Terry Robinson, chief executive, said Albert Fisher would slim down to focus on four divisions where it is either number one or two in growth markets. These are chilled cut lettuce, chilled cut fruit, chilled fish and frozen green vegetables.

At least eight other businesses will be sold, including several seafood businesses, a chilled salad business and the group's stake in the Freshpoint produce distribution operation in the US.

The expected £40m proceeds will be used to reduce debts, which stood at £165m at the interim stage. Mr Robinson,

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

who saw a non-executive director quit over disagreements on strategy in January, is also planning to cut costs and beef up management.

The problem with Albert Fisher is that a company with over £1.2bn of annual sales has operating profits of just £5m and a market value of £6m.

Going forward, the plan is to try to boost operating margins to 5 to 6 per cent within 18 months; an admirable aim, but achieving it has eluded a series of management teams.

At just 5p the shares are completely bombed out and as an investment represent a bold, all-or-nothing bet. Investec Henderson Crosthwaite is looking for pre-exitation profits of £11.5m in the full year, although these are likely to be marred by further write-offs. The shares are a recovery play, say analysts, albeit a risky one.

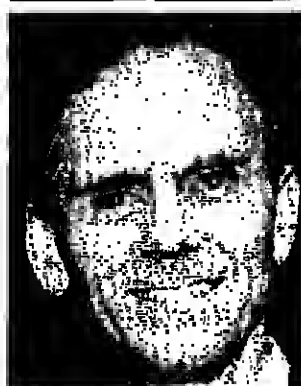
ICI, Britain's former industrial behemoth, yesterday posted first-quarter profits at the top end of analysts' expectations and promised to cut its debt to £2.5bn by July next year.

The Dulux paint and specialty chemicals group, which last week announced a £1.7bn deal to sell its polyurethane, oxide and petrochemical businesses to Huntsman of the US chemicals, said profits fell from £87m to £49m in the first quarter. Most analysts were predicting less than £40m.

In spite of the upbeat results, shares in the group fell 4 per cent to 649.5p on a rising market, cutting £180m from the group's market value. Observers said the results would help relieve pressure on ICI, which has been struggling for two years to dispose of its industrial chemicals businesses in the midst of a sharp down-turn in the sector.

Alan Spall, finance director, said the group was committed to completing the disposal pro-

BY ANDREW VERITY



Alan Spall: Committed to disposal programme

gramme by selling its acrylics, halochemicals and other bulk chemical assets.

Analysts blamed the share price fall on flat results for the core ICI businesses, specialty chemicals and paints. Much of the upside came from Tioxide and Polyurethanes, both of which are being sold to Hunts-

man. Profits in paints were unchanged with improvements in the North American operations and in Asia offsetting tough trading conditions in Latin America. Trading in specialty chemicals was weak in January but picked up in March.

The group's net debts, up from £4.2bn to £4.5bn because of seasonal factors, should be reduced next year by the Huntsman purchase. But ICI plans to improve returns on capital.

After a disastrous year, which saw the shares fall from 1244p to just 446p last autumn, the stock has enjoyed a good run in the past few weeks. The run has been helped by the Huntsman deal and a return to favour of cyclical stocks while US value funds have also been buying.

But Michael Eastwood of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson remains bearish, predicting full-year profits of £208m. That puts ICI on a forward multiple of 31, a sizeable premium to the market. Overvalued, he says.

A new facet to the gold price

JULIAN OGILVY THOMPSON, the chairman and chief executive of Anglo-American, the mining giant switching its listing to London from Johannesburg, may have set an interesting new running.

If only the gold producers would take a leaf out of the diamond miners' book and spend, say, \$1 an ounce through the under-resourced World Gold Council on promoting gold's attractions as a jewellery medium, they would get more than a dollar an ounce back through lifting the price of gold. Mr Ogilvy Thompson mused yesterday.

He is not, of course, trying to set up a gold cartel - perish the thought - but he does think de Beers have done a fantastic job on diamonds.

Missing links

THERE ARE many burning questions surrounding the

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Deutsche Telekom-Telecom Italia merger. What will they call the new company? Will Olivetti manage to break up the party before the deal gets past the competition police in Brussels?

But at least Franco Bernabè, the chief executive of Telecom Italia, was able to clear up one of the mysteries yesterday. How will he and his co-chief executive, Ron Sommer of Deutsche Telekom, divide up their role?

Easy, replied Mr Bernabè. "When he goes skiing I will do the work and when I go skiing he will do the work."

Motto bene. As for the vexed question of the name, the partners have decided it will contain neither the words "Deutsche" nor "Italia", but will include "Telecom" split with a "c". And the common language? "I am



confident it will be English... or Austrian," quips Mr Bernabè. What can this all mean?

Craic at the bar

OVER 400 members of the legal profession attended the second annual dinner last night in aid of Co-operation Ireland, a charity working to create a brighter future for young people in Ireland. The bash at the Dorchester in London attracted everyone from the chairman of the bar, Dan Brennan, to culture minister Chris Smith, and from former EastEnders actress Michelle Collins to Andersen Consulting managing partner Terry Neill.

The event even had a song for peace written in its honour by

singer Brian Kennedy. The dinner was sponsored by document management company Actix, which sells to many Irish law firms. Other support was given by Bank of Ireland, Waxy O'Connors and Guinness.

There was a large contingent from Dublin, including lawyers from A&L Goodbody, McCann Fitzgerald and Arthur Cox. If the event keeps expanding at its present rate, said one of the organisers, they may well have a use for the Millennium Dome in a couple of years' time.

Sailing home

TEARS FOR the failed attempt by Tracy Edwards' all-female crew to sail non-stop around the world in last year's Royal & SunAlliance Challenge have turned to joy for Robin Courage.

His sports sponsorship consultancy Atkinson Courage, has won two "Oscars" for Best Corporate Sponsorship and Best International Sponsorship in the 1999 Hollis Awards for their participation in Ms Edwards' attempt. Mr Courage is a scion of

the famed brewery family. But as a part of the celebrations by Beaufort Group - the business consultancy which owns his firm - he is more likely to be celebrating with drams of single malt. I am told.

EEF's Temple

THE ENGINEERING Employers' Federation (EEF) has named Martin Temple, formerly vice-president of Avesta Sheffield, as its director-general. The EEF used to be a power in the land, negotiating wage agreements with the trades unions, but it has become more of a lobby and education group.

The EEF tried to merge with the CBI three years ago, but the EEF's members voted the proposal down, fearing the CBI would strip their valuable property portfolio. The CBI now seems to be coysing up to the British Chambers of Commerce with merger ideas, but that's another story...

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	1.0000				
Australia	2.4750	2.4744	2.4744	2.4744	2.4744
Canada	20.552	20.500	20.500	20.500	20.500
Denmark	61.364	61.224	60.960	60.960	60.960
France	2.3896	2.3885	2.3885	2.3885	2.3885
Germany	11.301	11.280	11.240	11.240	11.240
Italy	1.5209	1.5209	1.5209	1.5209	1.5209
Japan	9.0439	9.0439	9.0439	9.0439	9.0439
Netherlands	5.0481	5.0481	5.0481	5.0481	5.0481
New Zealand	2.9751	2.9751	2.9751	2.9751	2.9751
Portugal	498.28	498.28	498.28	498.28	498.28
Spain	165.10	165.10	165.10	165.10	165.10
Sweden	193.04	193.04	193.04	193.04	193.04
Switzerland	1.4837	1.4837	1.4837	1.4837	1.4837
US	1.6132				

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Argentina	1.6211				
Brazil	2.7465				
China	13.355				
Czech Rep	12.577				
Egypt	5.4768				
Ghana	392.25				
Hungary	381.17				
India	68.884				
Indonesia	1395.8				
Kuwait	0.4943				
Nigeria	141.03				

INTEREST RATES

Country	3m	6m	1yr	2yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr
UK	5.25%								
Base	5.25%								
Discount	5.00%								
Overnight	5.00%								
1 week	5.00%								
1 month	5.00%								
3 months	5.00%								
6 months	5.00%								
1 year	5.00%								

BOND YIELDS

Country	3m	6m	1yr	2yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr
Australia	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65
Belgium	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49	2.49
Canada	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.59
France	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Germany	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Italy	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Japan	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
Netherlands	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Spain	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Sweden	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Switzerland	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
US	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25

www.bloomberg.com/uk

Source: Bloomberg

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Price	Open Interest
Long Gilt	Jun-99	116.98	117.48	116.68	79498.00
3 Yr Gilt	Jun-99	107.78			
German Bund	Jun-99	115.66			
Italian Bond	Jun-99	114.63			
Japan Gov Bond	Jun-99	94.80	94.84	94.80	29653.00
3 Mth Sterling	Jun-99	94.83	94.88	94.82	45311.00
3 Mth Eurobond	Jun-99	97.38	97.40	97.40	176249.00
3 Mth Eurobond	Jun-99	97.40	97.43	97.41	16731.00
3 Mth Eurobond	Jun-99	99.84	99.92	99.91	50940.00
3 Mth Eurobond	Jun-99	99.80	99.84	99.81	52400.00
3 Mth Eurobond	Jun-99	97.40	97.43	97.40	104463.00
3 Mth Eurobond	Jun-99	97.40	97.43	97.40	91780.00
FTSE 100	Jun-99	6450.00	6494.00	6393.00	27236.00

LIFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Settlement Price	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put
6413.60						
6350	174	22	140	20	257	209
6400	146	23	165	20	230	209
6450	118	24	190	19	203	209
6500	90	25	215	18	176	209
6550	62	26	240	17	149	209
6600	34	27	265	16	122	209
6650	6	28	290	15	95	209
6700		29	315	14	68	209
6750		30	340	13	41	209
6800		31	365	12	14	209
6850		32	390	11		209
6900		33	415	10		209
6950		34	440	9		209
7000		35	465	8		209
7050		36	490	7		209
7100		37	515	6		209
7150		38	540	5		209
7200		39	565	4		209
7250		40	590	3		209
7300		41	615	2		209
7350		42	640	1		209
7400		43	665			209
7450		44	690			209
7500		45	715			209
7550		46	740			209
7600		47	765			209
7650		48	790			209
7700		49	815			209
7750		50	840			209
7800		51	865			209
7850		52	890			209
7900		53	915			209
7950		54	940			209
8000		55	965			209
8050		56	990			209
8100		57	1015			209
8150		58	1040			209
8200		59	1065			209
8250		60	1090			209
8300		61	1115			209
8350		62	1140			209
8400		63	1165			209
8450		64	1190			209
8500		65	1215			209
8550		66	1240			209
8600		67	1265			209
8650		68	1290			209
8700		69	1315			209
8750		70	1340			209
8800		71	1365			209
8850		72	1390			209
8900		73	1415			209
8950		74	1440			209
9000		75	1465			209
9050		76	1490			209
9100		77	1515			209
9150		78	1540			209
9200		79	1565			209
9250		80	1590			209
9300		81	1615			209
9350		82	1640			209
9400		83	1665			209
9450		84	1690			209
9500		85	1715			209
9550		86	1740			209
9600		87	1765			209
9650		88	1790			209
9700		89	1815			209
9750		90	1840			209
9800		91	1865			209
9850		92	1890			209
9900		93	1915			209
9950		94	1940			209
10000		95	1965			209

SPORT

Peters points the way forward

Home-grown talent is dispelling notion that rugby league's London Broncos rely exclusively on Australian imports.
By Dave Hadfield

I HAD THEM London Broncos in the back of the cab the other day, giv' Bunch of Aussies, in't they? Well, yes and no, as their line-up for next weekend's Challenge Cup final will demonstrate. OK, the club's coaching and administrative staff speak predominantly in Australian accents and their continuing exemption from the full rigours of the international quota allows them to bring in antipodeans en bloc.

There is really nothing new about this. The club, right back to its days as Fulham, has always been sustained by foreigners, but now they come from Wagga Wagga and Woy Woy, rather than Wigan and Widnes. On the other hand, of their first-choice back division at the start of this season, five players were British-qualified. And then there is Dominic Peters, living proof that the Broncos are starting to home-grow their own.

A combination of injured imports and his own good form have made the 20-year-old Londoner a regular member of their pack this season and he is now in line to become one of the least experienced rugby league players ever to trot out at Wembley. "It all started at school in Gunnersbury," he recalls. "One of my teachers was Jason Wing, who played for the London Crusaders, and he said that my game was more suited to league."

Wing, a British bobsleigh international who was one of the wackier signings by the club that later evolved into the Broncos, has turned out to be a good judge, but Peters did not agree with his assessment initially. "I went into the Broncos' Academy side in 1996 and it was a shock to the system at first. I remember my first game against Wakefield Trinity; I was knocked out in the first five minutes. I was very soft at that time and I thought it wasn't for me. I'd tried and failed."

It was another young Londoner of whom the Broncos have high hopes, the winger Wayne Sykes, who persuaded his mate to come back and have another go. Easy for a winger—especially one who is allegedly quicker than Martin Offiah—to say. "But I'm pretty glad now that he talked me into coming back." The Broncos' Academy side that year was a strange hybrid, with a handful of Australians on scholarships mixed in with raw talent like Peters and Sykes, but the evidence now is that it was a blend which accelerated the development of the locals.

The problem for Peters last year



The Broncos forward Dominic Peters graduated to Super League after playing in the Rugby League Conference with West London Sharks. Andrew Varley

was that there was no reserve side for him to graduate to, so he was forced to take what looked like the backward step of playing for West London Sharks in the Rugby League Conference. That competition, based primarily in non-traditional areas in the South and Midlands, is one of the code's recent success stories over the last couple of years, giving it a foothold in all manner of unlikely places and providing a stepping stone for players of promise who just happen to have been born in the wrong place.

Apart from Londoners like Peters and Sykes, the Broncos have signed an outstanding prospect in Darryl Griffin from the Oxford Cavaliers and their chief executive, Tony Rea, is convinced that there will be more to follow. "From my point of view, it was just good to be playing and the level (in the Conference) was pretty good," Peters says. But not good enough to stop him standing out; after monitoring his form there for four games, the Broncos hauled him back and gave him four games, three of them as a substitute, towards the end of last season.

Nothing in rugby league is neat or smooth. An administrative oversight meant that West London were deducted four points for fielding an unregistered player, but at least they had the satisfaction of retaining a career. "I would have been the last person to expect to play as many first team games this season, but I feel I've pleased my coach and I've pleased myself. I'd like to think that he'll have faith in me at Wembley."

If Dan Stains does select Peters for the final, it will be a remarkable rise from obscurity and one that the player believes will encourage others to try to follow in his footsteps. "I think it will open doors of opportunity for other young people," Peters says. "Rugby union is more of a middle-class game and I never really felt welcome, so league has been a great opportunity for me."

Or, as Rea puts it: "He's a great role model for other kids. He's shown that if you do what he's done, you can get into Super League."

And to Wembley, however far it must have seemed from the playing fields of west London less than a year ago.

Leeds duo's test of fitness

ANDY HAY and Marvin Golden will both be given their chance this weekend to show that they are fit enough to take their places in Leeds' squad for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, writes Dave Hadfield.

Both feared that their chances of playing at Wembley had disappeared with recent injuries, but their coach, Graham Murray, is preparing to give them a run-out against Huddersfield on Sunday.

"I felt my ankle click and I thought my Cup final chances had gone," said Golden, who was showing excellent form in the centres before his ligament injury. "But I've trained on it and although it's sore I think I'll be all right."

The same applies to Hay, the incisive back-row forward who has had an operation to pin a broken thumb. "I'm going to play with it strapped up and hope for the best," he said.

If both come through safely, it will give Murray a wide range of selec-

tion options when he names his Wembley team next Tuesday.

Although Ritchie Blackmore will not play at Huddersfield because of his long-standing groin problem, he too is confident of being available for the final.

Daryl Powell is still concerned about his calf injury, but he will play at Huddersfield and Murray expects him to be able to add his experience to the Wembley mix.

With their first-choice half-backs, Henry and Robbie Paul, away in Australia to play for New Zealand in their Test today, the Bradford Bulls coach, Matthew Elliott, will field a new combination at the heart of his team against Halifax tonight. Paul Deacon comes in at scrum-half as expected, but Elliott has hinted strongly that he will use David Boyle, usually a second-row forward, at stand-off.

"I have total confidence in the ability of Paul Deacon to play at scrum half and I have used David Boyle at stand-off before," Elliott

said. "People didn't see the best of him in that position but I know he will do the job for me."

Halifax, boosted by their victory against Wigan last week, are still without their former Bradford player, Gary Mercer.

Widnes, who are making a determined push for promotion from the Northern Ford Premiership to Super League this season, have re-signed their former captain, Paul Hulme, on a one-year contract.

Hulme, who is the younger brother of the Salford captain, David, has been a free agent since being released by Swinton at the end of last season.

The Swinton coach, Les Holliday, has announced that he will stand down from his current position at the end of this season. The former Great Britain captain and St Helens assistant coach, Mike Gregory, who was appointed to work alongside Holliday, earlier this month, will take over.

Grosjean accused of undue influence

TENNIS

BY JOHN ROBERTS
In Monte Carlo

MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS served, volleyed and rallied his way to the quarter-finals of the Monte Carlo Open yesterday, and afterwards accused his French opponent, Sebastian Grosjean, of persuading the umpire to penalise him to the brink of disqualification.

The 22-year-old Australian, who had been given a code violation by the German official, Rudi Berger, for breaking his racket after losing the opening two games of the second set, was docked a penalty point after celebrating his recovery to 3-3 by hitting a ball into the crowd. A third misdemeanour would have resulted in Philippoussis being shown the door, but he managed to restrain himself and won, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2, earning a match against Marcelo Rios, of Chile, for a place in the semi-finals.

"The thing that really upset me was that Grosjean asked for me to get a point penalty given to me, which is bad sportsmanship," Philippoussis said. "It was terrible on his part. Obviously, I deserved to get the violation for breaking the racket, but there was no difference between what I did the second time and what you do when you win a match, hitting the ball into the stands. I was happy that I broke [Grosjean] and was back in the match. I hit the ball to spur myself on, to get my adrenalin going. That's why I don't think I deserved to get the penalty."

"The umpire said he had to give it to me, because [Grosjean] complained, which is ridiculous. You don't ask an umpire—force an umpire—to give the other player a code violation. I've never heard of that."

Grosjean, the runner-up to Richard Krajicek at the Lipton Championships last month, defended his action. "I just asked the umpire to do his job," he said.

Philippoussis has an opportunity to overtake Britain's 24th Menman at No 7 in the world rankings, having achieved what Henman and his British compatriot Greg Rusedski failed to do here, defeating a clay-courtier with a mixture of attacking zeal and defensive nous.

The Australian, who is based in Florida, is embroiled in the controversy created by the International Tennis Federation's decision to grant the United States a home tie in July to mark the Davis Cup centenary, even though Australia were due a visit. "What we're arguing is, if they wanted an historic moment, why didn't they do it for the first round, when America played England? That would have been perfect, because England played in America in the first-ever Davis Cup match."

Even in complaining mode, Philippoussis smiles a lot more than Rios on a good day. "I think the ATP Tour is pretty boring," was Rios's theme after defeating Hicham Arazi, of Morocco, a fellow left-hander, 6-3, 6-3. "They should invent something so the players don't get bored when they've got to wait all day when it's raining."

Surely a 23-year-old who has won \$6.2m (£3.9m) in official prize-money alone could find ways to amuse himself in Monte Carlo, even when it rains? "Yeah, sure. I do a lot of things. I just say that the Tour is boring. I'm not saying my life is boring. I go out at night, I have a great time. I've been going to the casino. It's tough at the top."

Markus Schur, the Germany coach, has called up Elena Wagner and Jana Kandarr for a Fed Cup World Group Two first-round tie against Japan this weekend in Hamburg. Wagner and Kandarr will team up with Andrea Glas for a tie Germany will have to play without their best players. Steffi Graf, Anke Huber and Marlene Weingartner have withdrawn injured.

Results, Digest, page 27

TODAY'S NUMBER

13.2m
The viewers ITV attracted for Manchester United's 3-2 European Cup semi-final, second leg victory over Juventus in Turin on Wednesday.

Teenage prodigy hailed as Owen of the race track

THE WORKING day begins with a photo shoot. This way, that way, holding the helmet, helmet on the ground, smiling wide. He is the consummate professional.

He even remembers to change race suits before going out to test. Cigarette advertising restrictions in this country prohibit the displaying of his sponsor's name.

All part of a racing driver's job, no matter that he is barely 19. But then the motor racing world has been anticipating the development of this young driver for some time.

Many are convinced the search for Britain's next champion is over. Dubbing him the new Nigel Mansell or the new Damon Hill is unnecessary. With a name like Jensen Button why would he need to crib someone else's handle?

Also with a name like Jensen Button, of course, you would have to be quite intelligent and bright. By all accounts, he measures up to the requirements.

It is probably more apposite to call him the Michael Owen of the track. Among the commercial badges on his suit, is recognition of his McLaren Autosport Award, the equivalent of a young player of the year honour.

Mansell and Hill achieved grand prix distinction relatively late in life. If Button's career continues on

Jenson Button is charging through the grades towards Formula One in highly impressive fashion. By Derick Allsop

schedule, he could be driving a Formula One car in a couple of years.

On Sunday, at Brands Hatch, he competes in his fourth British Formula Three championship race, having delivered his maiden win in his third outing, at Thruxton, with



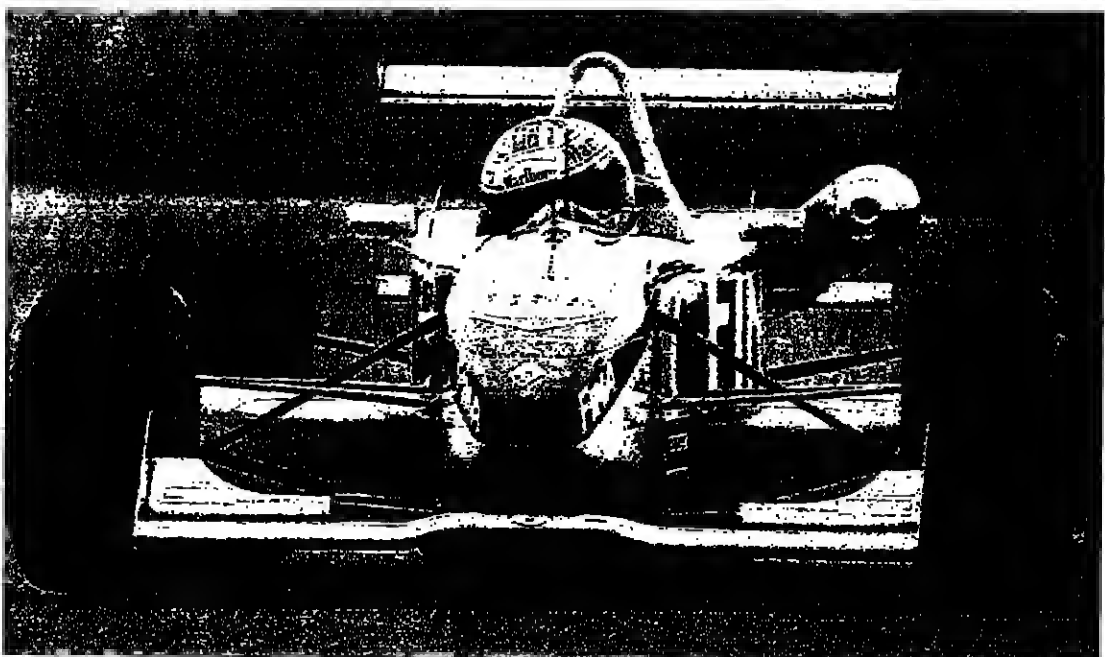
Button: Dispelling clichés

the measured assurance of a veteran to go second in the 14-round championship.

His Promatecme Renault team and the ever-present talent spotters were satisfied the protégé's star was safely in the ascendancy. So were Marlboro, who were sufficiently convinced of his potential when they recruited him to their exclusive coterie. The last UK drivers to have received their personal backing were Eddie Irvine, who claimed his maiden Gran Prix victory in Australia earlier this month, and Allan McNish, winner of the Le Mans 24-hour sports car race last year.

Marlboro are scarcely philanthropists. They covet winners and Button has been a winner ever since he started racing karts at the age of eight. He was the 1997 European Karting champion. He switched to cars last year and won the British Formula Ford Championship and the prestigious Formula Ford Festival, and was runner-up in the European Formula Ford Championship.

If he sustains his course through Formula Three he will step up to



Jenson Button tests his Promatecme Renault Formula Three race car at Silverstone. Rui Viera

Formula 3000. Success there and Formula One would beckon.

"We've got a programme set out. I want to get to Formula One and be world champion," he said calmly and without a hint of arrogance. "I know I have to produce the results, but I feel we have all the ingredients here. We have a very good package."

Already he sounds like a grown-up driver. Like Owen, he is reckoned to have "an old head on young shoulders". He spent a day taking "media training", but has learned the communications and promotion ropes along with other aspects of racing over the past decade.

He was seemingly destined for this way of life when his parents named him Jenson. His father, John, was a rallycross enthusiast and steered his son's fledgling career. More recently they moved from their home in Somerset to Bicester and the epicentre of motor racing.

"Dad said I was looking tired when I got back from races and thought it would help me if I cut down on the travelling," explained Button, who put down his school books after sitting his GCSE's.

"Racing is all I ever wanted. I went with Dad to his race meetings and followed racing on television. [Ayrton] Senna was my idol. Also [Alain] Prost. A very intelligent, very smooth driver. I don't model myself on either of them, or anyone else, although people say my driving is smooth like Prost's."

Prost won the world championship four times and the consensus within the sport is that Button has all the attributes to reach that pinnacle. Little wonder he has been granted audiences with such Formula One luminaries as Bernie Ecclestone, Ron Dennis and Frank Williams. There are whispers of interest at Ferrari.

"I hear all these things people say

and it's very flattering," he said. "But I know I've got to do well at this level if I'm going to get any further. There is a bit of pressure trying to live up to the expectations, but you have to get used to pressure for the higher formulae. You have to handle it."

A modern driver must cope also with technology and strict training regimes. The former appears not to faze him and the latter is guided by Senna's former trainer-physio, the Austrian Josef Leberer. "I'm in the gym five days a week," Button says. "Fitness is vitally important and I'm working hard on that side."

And still, he maintains: "I have the life of a normal 19-year-old. I like body boarding. I have a girlfriend. I enjoy going out, and I'm not banned from having a drink. In fact, Josef says it's OK to have a drink, especially after a race."

More especially, no doubt, when he wins.

White no longer seems to be in with a shout

JIMMY WHITE has found so many ways to avoid winning the Embassy World Snooker Championship it seems inconceivable that anyone could find another. The Whirlwind, he says, could be handicapped by his boisterous supporters.

Twice their first-round match here in Sheffield had to be halted late on Wednesday while over-enthusiastic supporters

SNOOKER
BY GUY HODGSON
at the Crucible

were removed from the crowd and McManus, who won 10-7, believes it harmed the person they were purporting to back.

"I'm glad I don't have to deal with that every match because it's not very nice," the world No 8 said. "All that shout-

ing, it gets a bit silly and if anything it upsets Jimmy more than me. They're shouting 'come on Jimmy' every shot and it becomes boring. It does help him at all.

"There's just too much noise and that's the downside of playing Jimmy. It gets boisterous, it disrupts the flow of the game and, as the referee John Williams told them out there, we're playing for our lives. No

shouting or howling is going to make you try any harder."

White, six times the runner-up, naturally did not want to criticise his supporters, but even he admitted his concentration was affected. "This is a fantastic venue when you are tuned in," he said, "but when you're not you can hear everything. People are very close to you and if you are not focused it's difficult.

"From 3-1 up my mind wandered. I was trying to motivate myself but I couldn't, my mind just wandered. I didn't perform and I didn't feel like I could perform which is the sickening thing. I struggled with every shot and every aspect of the game."

White had been at Sheffield since Saturday getting up early

to combat the 10am start to his match with McManus and his preparation appeared to have worked when he took a 5-4 lead in the first session.

In the evening he was lacklustre, however. "His long game wasn't as good as it was when he was his peak," McManus said, "and that handicapped him because he does go for a few. It's the natural way he plays."

Even so White should have levelled the match at 8-8 when he led 60-49 in the 16th frame and needed only the blue to leave McManus requiring snookers. The fact that he left it rattling in the jaws of a top corner pocket was, he said, symptomatic of the state of his concentration.

"I only needed the blue but I tried to screw back for the pink because I didn't want Alan to

play for snookers. How stupid is that? That's how my mind was."

Now White's brain has to come to terms with the fact he will be out of the elite top 16 for a second year and that, for all his brave words, the chances of his winning the world title are diminishing to the point of the negligible. As he heads towards his 40s, he is destined to be the nearly man.

'I feared for my life' says Waugh

STEVE WAUGH, the Australia captain, said that he feared for his life as the fifth one-day match against West Indies ended in chaos.

Waugh suffered a whiplash injury after being shouldered-charged, jostled and threatened when more than 1,000 fans invaded the pitch on Wednesday following the final delivery. The International Cricket Council's adjudicator, Raman Subba Row, eventually declared the result a tie and ordered an immediate inquiry into the pitch invasion.

Waugh, who needed a police escort to reach the safety of the dressing-room, said later: "It doesn't get much scarier than that on the sporting field. You are risking your life. It only takes one guy with plenty to drink to take out a knife à la Monica Seles and it's over for you."

"That could easily happen, it's not over-dramatising it. I have whiplash to my neck and I'm happy to get away with it

CRICKET
BY FINDLAY RAWLINS
in Georgetown, Guyana

that lightly."

Seles, the former world No 1 women's tennis player, was stabbed by a spectator at a tournament in Hamburg in 1993. Waugh said he was verbally harassed as he went to meet Subba Row to help determine the result. "As players we are sick of it," Waugh said. "Guys were being threatened outside the ground and I was threatened a hundred times on the way to the score box."

"People were saying: 'If you get a tie we are going to be after you'. Is cricket really worth that much? It's certainly not worth risking your life for. It's a ridiculous situation that in a professional game of sport this could happen."

The trouble came as Waugh and Shane Warne were attempting to complete a third



Shane Warne, of Australia, is surrounded by invading West Indies supporters after the one-day international in Georgetown. *Allsport*

run which would have tied the scores at 173. Waugh hit the final delivery into the outfield and he and Warne dashed through for two as the throw came in.

Keith Arthurton then took off the hails with Warne safely home but as fans ran on to the pitch and tried to steal the stumps the batsmen struggled

to cross for the third run. Chaotic scenes ensued as Arthurton tried to return to the stumps to complete a run-out but they had been stolen by the fans.

The incident mirrored a pitch invasion at the Bourda ground in Georgetown six years ago during a tense finish to a one-day match between

West Indies and Pakistan. Subba Row also ruled that result as a tie.

Meanwhile Javed Miandad, who quit as the Pakistan coach on Wednesday, is rumoured to have been unhappy with the appointment of Sarfraz Nawaz as his bowling coach for the World Cup. According to *The News* newspaper, Sarfraz's role

in Pakistan's World Cup plans was a surprise "since it is well-known he never got along with Miandad."

Sarfraz, one of Pakistan's leading pace bowlers in the 1970s, is a controversial figure who in the past has made match-fixing allegations. The Englishman Richard Pybus has also been appointed

as a technical coach for the tournament by the Pakistan Cricket Board. But the PCB chairman, Khalid Mahmood, said he did not think Miandad was at odds with that appointment.

Pybus will join the team on 1 May after resolving a dispute with South African officials. He coaches the provincial side Border.

Stewart fails as Surrey struggle

ALEC STEWART'S hopes of a meaningful innings before the World Cup were ruined when he was dismissed for six in Surrey's rain-ravaged County Championship match against Worcestershire at New Road yesterday.

The England captain faced just nine balls before he drove at Stuart Lampitt and was caught at second slip. Surrey's other England players - Graham Thorpe (17) and Adam Holoake (4) - also fared badly against the Worcestershire attack as Surrey were dismissed for 223, with the Worcestershire debutant Chris Lipsett finishing with five for 51. The home side were 15 for 1 at the close.

At Hove, Devon Malcolm's opening spell reaped four wickets for 27 to leave Sussex on the brink of following on in their match against Northamptonshire. The former England fast bowler removed Richard Montgomerie, Chris Adams and Michael Di Venuto for just four runs in the space of eight deliveries as the hosts, replying to Northamptonshire's 391 for 8 declared, stumbled to 79 for 7 by the close of the second day.

An inspired Gavin Hamilton put Yorkshire in a winning position by the close of the second day of their Championship match against Gloucestershire at Headingley. The Scottish all-rounder claimed 4 for 26 to add to his unbeaten 81 with the bat as Yorkshire made 283 all out and then bowled the visitors out for 169.

Kendall displays his class Cork and Rollins drop anchor

THERE MUST have been times last season when Will Kendall wondered if he would have a job at Hampshire in 1999. He was given a handful of damp one-dayers early in the year, but did nothing to avoid being relegated to second XI duty.

It was only in the last month of last season that Jason Lanes' poor form gave Kendall a chance to save his contract. Although he failed to reach three figures on his return, a landmark he has not managed since 1996, he did enough to finish third in the county's Championship averages.

Alas, a century also eluded him yesterday. He grafted watchfully for four hours, repairing a Hampshire innings that could have shrunk to nothing in the early moisture, be-

BY JOHN COLLIS
at Southampton

Hampshire 252
Kent 18-3

fore punting a leading edge back to Martin McCague. But after their early problems, Hampshire would have settled for two batting points and an innings that kept Kent in the field for most of what was a breezy day.

Kent's new skipper, Matthew Fleming, won the toss and chose to bowl on clammy turf. Horrid weather earlier in the week had already reduced this to a three-day match when Dean Headley took the new ball, and batting yesterday morning was awkward on a searing pitch. For a brief while Robin

Smith threatened to tame the conditions, but too soon he was trapped in his crease, undone by a ball from Andrew Symonds that kept low.

While Kendall took a cautious line, Derek Kenway repaired the Hampshire innings in more muscular fashion, unfurling eight boundaries in his morning cameo. As the supporting cast came and went, however, only the compact Kendall stood for long in Kent's path.

McCague, perhaps unsure of the ground beneath his sizeable feet early in the day, bowled an anodyne morning spell but made amends later and, with a little luck on his side, helped to ensure that Hampshire could never establish a commanding total. Headley, meanwhile, has al-

ready settled into a thoroughbred groove this year.

Although Nixon McLean was surplus to the West Indies' needs in the one-day series against Australia, facing him on an April evening in Southampton is still a testing prospect. He soon yoked Robert Key and before the day was out, Alex Morris blasted his way through Trevor Ward and the night-watchman Min Patel to regain home initiative.

Rain forced the third washout in as many days in the County Championship match between Middlesex and Lancashire at Lord's yesterday. Off the pitch, the England World Cup hopeful Ian Austin has suffered what was described as "a minor tweak" as he warmed up, forcing him out of the Lancashire side.

IT WOULD be all too easy to predict that a long and difficult winter off the field is about to be followed by something similar on it for Derbyshire. And, initially, a handful of wickets carelessly sacrificed to Glamorgan's steady pace attack did nothing to dispel that theory at Derby yesterday.

At that point the whole day could have gone pear-shaped for them and Matthew Maynard's decision to howl first, based on a combination of meteorological, psychological and tactical reasons, began to look inspired even though the pitch was nothing more menacing than a slow, early-season seamer.

If Derbyshire had been bowled out cheaply, who knows what implications that could have had for their long-term confidence and stability? As it

BY MIKE CAREY
at Derby

Derbyshire 168-4
Glamorgan

was, at 54 for 4, Adrian Rollins and Dominic Cork dropped anchor and batted with the patience and selectivity the conditions and accuracy of Glamorgan's bowlers demanded.

Cork's innings was particularly significant and will do him much more good than all his apparent whinging about the England selectors (since when has anyone had the right to a guarantee of an England place?). From the start he set his stall out to bat with a discipline and common sense for which he has not always been noted.

At No 6 he may look a little

high in the order in this particular line-up. There could be some tough battles ahead. But there was no doubt that he was equal to the task here. In taking 14 overs over his first four runs he attempted nothing exotic, left well alone outside the off stump and Rollins, punching the ball vigorously off the back foot whenever length permitted, must have been grateful for his solid and selfless support.

Rollins himself, returning after a serious back injury, had to work hard against the new ball. Steve Watkins and Darren Thomas extracted some awkward bounce when they hit the seam and on another day Rollins, when 15, might have been caught at slip off one from Adrian Dale that bounced and left him.

At the other end it was a dif-

ferent story. Michael Slater got out hooking, as is his wont even in well-appareled April. Robin Weston, frustrated by the accuracy of Watkins and co, chose the stroke of lunch to discover that driving was not necessarily all that straightforward on this pitch.

When Simon Jones had Steve Titchard caught in the gully off his looseener and Matthew Cassar perished forcing Dale off the back foot, there was much to be done. But after Rollins had gone to 50 from 173 balls, Cork weighed in with some well-timed strokes of his own against Robert Croft, who, desperately trying to adjust his length, disappeared for 16 off one over.

Weather permitting, the situation is now set for forfeiture or two and a positive finish today.

PPP healthcare County Championship

Hampshire v Kent

SOUTHAMPTON (Day 2 of 4): Hampshire have scored 240 for 8 wickets against Kent.

Kent won toss -

Hampshire - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
J P White c Key b Fleming	0	0	0	40	52
J P Stephenson c Ward b Headley	17	0	4	28	36
W S Kendall c and b McCague	33	0	12	183	264
"R A Smith lbw b Symonds	18	0	4	33	38
"A N Ayres lbw b McCague	18	0	3	58	63
D A Kenway lbw b Fleming	45	0	8	81	78
A D Mascarenhas c Walker b McCague	15	0	2	42	73
S D Udal not out	7	0	1	28	29
A C Morris c Ward b McCague	0	0	0	6	7
N A M McLean not out	4	0	1	5	7
Extras (b4 w2 nb4)	17				
Total (for 8, 284 overs)	240				
Fall: 1-21 2-24 3-59 4-111 5-197 6-224 7-229 8-235.					
To bat: S J Renshaw.					
Bowling: D W Headley 18-8-36-1; M J McCague 20-4-65-4; M V Fleming 19-5-67-2; A Symonds 14-7-39-1; M Patel 12-4-25-0.					
Umpires: R Aulen and M J Kitchen.					

Sussex v Northamptonshire

HOVE (Day 2 of 4): Sussex trail Northamptonshire by 353 runs with six first-innings wickets in hand.

Sussex won toss

Northamptonshire - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
"M I Hayden run out	119	0	18	205	300
R J Warren b Pelton	88	1	10	197	317
D J G Sales c Di Venuto b Row	3	0	0	14	13
A L Penberthy c Montgomerie	26	0	2	31	35
b Martin-Jenkins	19	0	1	25	30
G P Swann not out	50	0	6	97	106
J P Taylor c Montgomerie b Edwards	21	0	3	51	75
D Follett not out	18	0	0	23	22
Extras (b6 lb5 w0)	24				
Total (for 8 dec, 116 overs)	391				
Fall: 1-48 2-57 3-222 4-235 5-284 6-304 7-304 8-362.					
Did not bat: D E Malcolm.					
Bowling: R J Kitchen 27-4-92-9; R S C Martin-Jenkins 28-5-67-6; J P Taylor 19-5-67-2; M A Robinson 25-8-67-0; C J Adams 6-2-14-0; R K Rao 6-0-27-1; M T E Pelton 5-1-16-1.					

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

SUSSEX - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
R R Montgomerie c Ripley b Malcolm	8	0	1	15	15
M T E Pelton c Ripley b Taylor	0	0	1	41	52
"C J Adams b Malcolm	1	0	0	7	7
M J Di Venuto c Warren b Malcolm	0	0	0	1	0
P A Courtney not out	10	0	1	21	38
R K Rao not out	7	0	0	15	12
Extras	0				
Total (for 4, 164 overs)	38				
Fall: 1-12 2-18 3-18 4-18 5-18 6-18 7-18 8-18.					
To bat: R S C Martin-Jenkins, A O Edwards, 15 Humphries, R J Kitchen, M A Robinson.					
Bowling: D E Malcolm 8-4-0-27-3; J P Taylor 8-3-11-1; R J Kitchen 1-12-3-18-4; A O Edwards 1-12-3-18-4; M A Robinson 1-12-3-18-4; R K Rao 1-12-3-18-4; P A Courtney 1-12-3-18-4.					

Yorkshire v Gloucestershire

HEADINGLEY (Day 2 of 4): Gloucestershire trail Yorkshire by 188 runs with four first-innings wickets in hand.

Gloucestershire won toss

Yorkshire - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
G M Hamilton not out	31	0	10	145	193
D Gough c Harvey b Smith	33	0	5	63	95
R J Siddons not out	1	0	0	5	5
M J Hoggard c Russell b Alleyne	8	0	0	18	27
Extras (b15 w4 nb0)	22				
Total (113.4 overs)	105				
Fall: 1-13 2-14 3-46 4-88 5-115 6-127 7-193 8-254 9-255.					
Bowling: A M Smith 27-6-73-4; J Lewis 24-4-58-0; M W Alleyne 15-4-6-32-1; J Hoggard 17-10-58-3; T H C Hancock 8-4-15-1; K J Barnett 9-3-15-0; M C J Ball 3-15-0.					

Gloucestershire - First Innings

comptonsire by in hand.	
overnight 184-2	
4s 6s 8s 10s 12s 14s 16s 18s 20s 22s 24s 26s 28s 30s	
18 209 300	

Derbyshire v Glamorgan

DERBYSHIRE (Day 3 of 4): Derbyshire have scored 132 for 4 wickets against Glamorgan.

Glamorgan won toss

Derbyshire - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
M J Slater c Watkins b Thomas	5	0	1	7	0
A S Rollins not out	63	0	7	191	179
R M S Weston c Dale b Wadlin	3	0	0	35	7
S P Titchard c James b Jones	14	0	1	30	32

LEICESTERSHIRE v Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER (Day 3 of 4): Nottinghamshire have scored 40 for 3 wickets against Leicestershire.

Leicestershire won toss

Nottinghamshire - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
U Afaiz lbw b Kasproutcz	4	0	1	22	12
R T Robinson c Wells b Lewis	12	0	0	22	18
"J E R Gailan not out	5	0	0	28	46
P Johnson c Maddy b Kasproutcz	8	0	0	29	30
N A Gie not out	1	0	0	6	7
Extras (b4 nb0)	10				
Total (for 3, 17.2 overs)	40				
Fall: 1-20 2-20 3-33.					
To bat: R C M W Peadar, V C Drakes, P J Franks, A G Wharf, D S Lucas, R J Stemp.					
Bowling: M S Kasproutcz 9-3-24-3; C C Lewis 6-3-9-1; V J Wells 2-1-3-0.					
Umpires: J C Baidstone and J W Lloyd.					

Middlesex v Lancashire

LORD'S (Day 3 of 4)

No play yesterday because of rain.

Worcestershire v Surrey

Worcester (Day 3 of 4): Surrey have scored 128 for 8 wickets against Worcestershire.

Worcestershire won toss

Surrey - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
"M A Solari c Lampitt b Upcott	30	1	3	38	48
I Ward c Buchanan b Haynes	31	0	5	54	67

Today's fixtures (11.00 unless stated)

PPP HEALTHCARE County Championship (day 3 of 4)

Southampton: Hampshire v Kent; Hove: Sussex v Northamptonshire; Headingley: Yorkshire v Gloucestershire; (day 4 of 4)

Derby: Derbyshire v Glamorgan; Leicester: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire; Lord's: Middlesex v Lancashire; Worcester: Worcestershire v Surrey

Other Matches (day 3 of 3) **Fenner's: Cambridge Uni v Essex**

Warwickshire v Somerset

EDGBASTON (Day 4 of 4): Warwickshire (8pts) drew with Somerset (7pts)

Somerset won toss

Warwickshire - First Innings

	Runs
P J Atzal lbw b Kasprowicz.....	4
T Robinson c Wells b Lewis.....	12
J E R Gallian not out.....	5
Johnson c Maddy b Kasprowicz.....	8
A Gie not out.....	1

European Cup: Manchester United's captain refuses to curb combative instincts as Juventus meet an irresistible force

Keane's sacrifice ensures mastery

LONG AFTER the players had left the pitch on Wednesday night the visiting fans were still banging around the Stadio Delle Alpi, reluctant to leave the scene of an unforgettable triumph. And then the chant arose, echoing around the concrete bowl: "La la la, la la la, la la la, Keane..." Sung to a phrase from the finale of the Beatles' "Hey Jude", it represented a salute to the player who had done more than any other to propel Manchester United past Juventus and into the final of the European Cup, yet whose efforts caused him to forfeit his own presence on that potentially historic night in Barcelona.

How much will United miss Keane in the Nou Camp on 26 May? No doubt his physical presence would have been particularly valuable against such a strong and resolute side as Bayern Munich, and particularly against the threat posed by Stefan Effenberg, the German side's most influential midfielder, whose game, like Keane's, is finely balanced between skill and power, albeit in slightly different proportions.

But Alex Ferguson's campaign to reinforce his squad over the last few years has presented him with an ideal replacement in Ronny Johnsen, who played a creditable part in United's fightback in Turin. No one else in the United squad is as well equipped to assume Keane's role as a deep midfielder player who breaks up attacks but can also pass the ball and occasionally get forward to provide an attacking alternative.

Of course, Johnsen does not possess Keane's bite. Few do. In a game such as Wednesday's, on a night of high intensity and resounding significance, Keane is always playing on the fine edge of the rules. Against Arsenal, United's greatest domestic rivals, this season, his bone-shuddering battles with Patrick Vieira have been something extraordinary to behold - and the best possible advertisement for maintaining a degree of physical contact in football. Keane sees such confrontations as the key to psychological supremacy. And when he has won one of them, he goes looking for another.

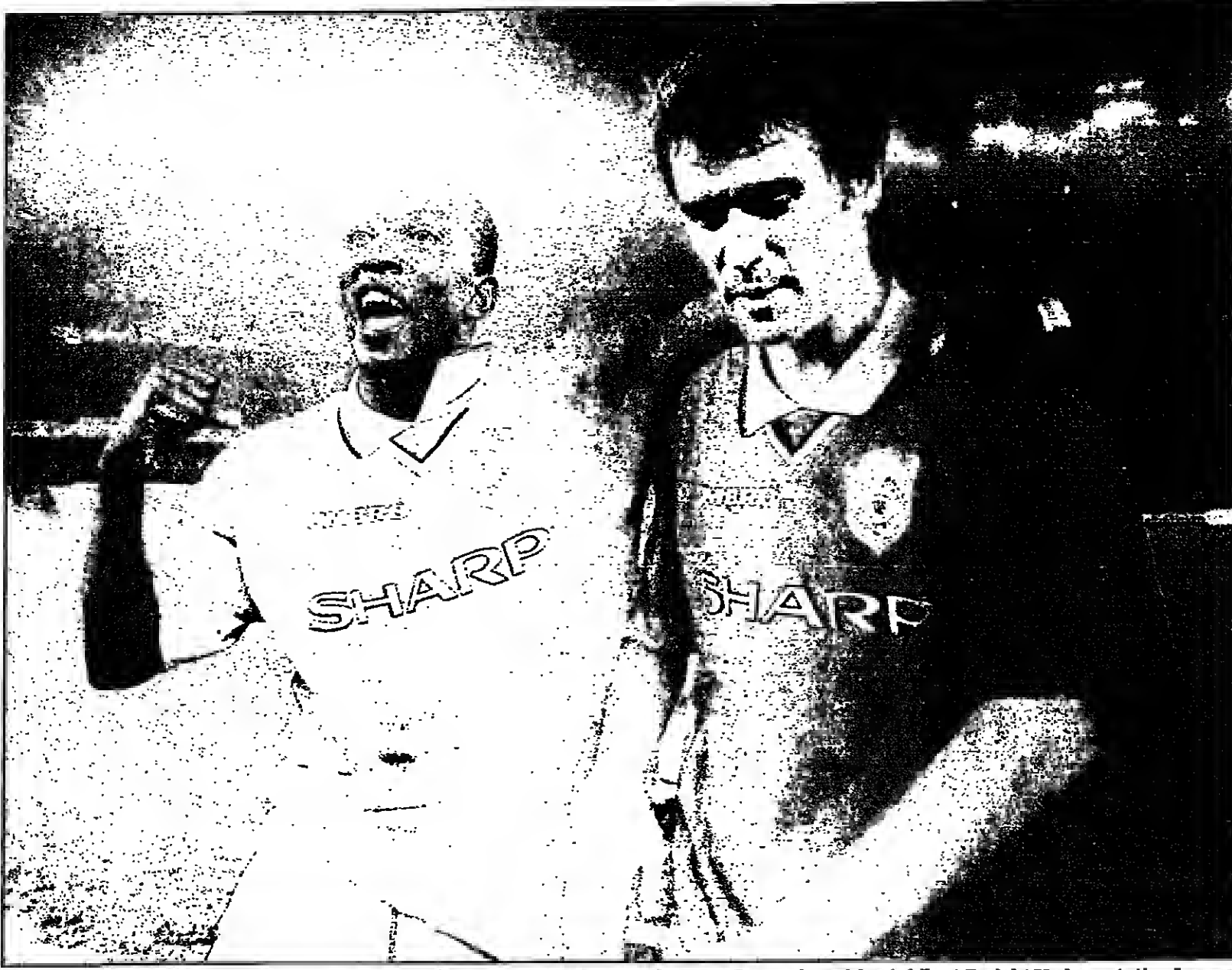


RICHARD WILLIAMS
IN TURIN

With his goal in the 26th minute in Turin, Keane laid the keystone of United's victory. Three minutes earlier, the tide that had swept Juventus into a two-goal lead had shown the first sign of turning when Ciro Ferrara bailed Dwight Yorke down by the shirt collar inside the area, unseen by the otherwise excellent referee. And then, after Andy Cole had won a corner on the left, Keane, with his trademark, Zinedine Zidane to put his head to David Beckham's beautifully flighted inswinging corner with a power and accuracy reminiscent of Zidane's own efforts in the World Cup final.

The conclusiveness of Keane's strike did wonders for United's morale, and it was much less of a surprise when they equalised 10 minutes later, through Yorke's header from Cole's clever cross. Between times, however, Keane had committed the offence that will cost him his place in the history of the European Cup final.

It was his own fault, although he spent several moments berating Jesper Blomqvist for the incident that led to the fatal yellow card. Blomqvist, playing with quiet confidence in Ryan Giggs's place on the left wing, slid the ball across the centre circle, a pass intended for Keane but only narrowly evading Nicky Butt and Zidane. The Irishman could have steered the ball out towards David Beckham, but muffed his attempt to control it, instead allowing it to run past him. Zidane, thinking quickly, nipped round him to steal possession, but not quite quickly enough to prevent Keane from tripping him and



Roy Keane (right) allows himself a moment of reflection as he leaves the field on Wednesday with a jubilant Dwight Yorke. Action Images

preventing a dangerous break.

Keane's fate was in no way a replica of the shabby fraud that put Laurent Blanc out of the World Cup final. Neutrals can feel sympathy for Keane, but not real sorrow. The similar fate of Paul Scholes, booked for tackling Deschamps with both sets of studs showing, seemed marginally less justified, since the essence of the tackle was an attempt to win the ball.

Ferguson, who holds both players in particularly high esteem, remarked afterwards that they would be the first names on his team sheet for the FA Cup final, four days before the showdown in Barcelona. This is hardly good news for Newcastle United, who may feel the force of

Keane's disappointment in particular.

United won Wednesday's match because they had more spirit than Juventus, and because they kept their shape far more effectively. At two goals down, and with the 58,000 home supporters already booing their tickets to Catalonia, Ferguson's players never wavered. They were not playing well, but they refused to panic. By maintaining their own tempo, and remembering their strengths, they grew into themselves and into the match, prompted by the unceasing and utterly unselfish exertions of Cole, who looks thoroughly at home in such surroundings and may have an important influence in Barcelona.

Cole has not had an easy

time at United, but his refusal to learn the meaning of discouragement is matched by his subtle understanding of angles of attack. Yorke had a great deal to thank him for in Turin, and repaid the debt in the closing minutes by making the run which allowed his partner to pounce on the loose ball and score a well deserved goal of his own.

Juventus, on the other hand, fell victim to a major attack of hubris, their disintegration forcing Carlo Ancelotti to make a catastrophic half-time adjustment. By adding an extra attacker and withdrawing Zidane slightly, Ancelotti presented United with a far more familiar style of opposition, one which the visitors' defence was able to confront with greater confidence.

Zidane, whose display at Old Trafford had matched anything seen anywhere this season, came in for a mighty hammering in yesterday morning's newspapers, but the Italians had only themselves to blame for any deficiencies in his performance. Gianni Agnelli's careless insult at the beginning of the week may or may not have affected Zidane's competitive edge, but the country that invented the overheated transfer market can hardly complain when a player voices his intention to take advantage of the opportunities it offers. And Zidane was, in any case, far from the worst of fender.

Where Antonio Conte, the club captain, and Didier Deschamps, the captain of

France, when the fight for survival was on?

Exempted from criticism would be the combative Edgar Davids, the tireless Angelo Di Livio, and most of all Filippo Inzaghi, a marvellously swift and agile predator. "I thought, I dreamed, that those two goals would be the most important of my life," the striker said afterwards. "Instead they turned into the most bitter."

As Ferguson looks ahead to Barcelona, there may be some comfort in the knowledge that the absence of Keane and Scholes will be balanced by the injuries that exclude two of Bayern's first-choice players, the Brazilian striker Giovane Elber and the French wing-back Bixente Lizarazu. And, with luck, United will have Giggs back in time for the final - a Giggs who, effectively denied exposure in the World Cup, must seize the best opportunity he will ever get to give the world a sustained exhibition of the immense talent that flared momentarily back to life a week ago.

But, most of all, the evidence of Wednesday night's amazing achievement in Turin points to two heartening conclusions. After a dozen years in the job, Alex Ferguson has created a team that is greater than the sum of its expensive and talented individuals. And, at long last, Manchester United have learnt what it takes to win back the trophy they hold most dear.

Ferguson transfer budget is still £10m

BY GLENN MOORE

MANCHESTER UNITED'S success in reaching the final of the European Cup will not increase Alex Ferguson's summer transfer budget, which was cut after the collapse of BSKYB's attempted takeover, despite the prospect of earning £16m from the competition.

Ferguson had been told he will be given a maximum of around £10m, most of which will be earmarked for Peter Schmeichel's replacement and, said the club's chairman Martin Edwards yesterday, that remains the board's position.

"Financially, reaching the final won't make a lot of difference in the short-term," said Edwards. "Most of the money you make from this competition you make along the way. The rewards for reaching the final, and possibly winning it, are largely swallowed up by bonus payments."

Edwards recognised that the £28m invested last summer in Dwight Yorke, Jaap Stam and Jesper Blomqvist has been crucial to the European Cup campaign. "The players we've brought in have been outstanding," he said. "I think Stam has been superb, and Yorke made his contribution with the goal - and even Jesper Blomqvist standing in for Ryan Giggs did his bit. All three players that we brought in have featured in our campaign and made a contribution."

However, United are already committed to spending heavily on the further redevelopment of Old Trafford, taking its capacity to 67,000, and a new training complex. This has been partly financed by their cup run. While United could make around £16m from the competition, most of this had been earned prior to Wednesday. They were already in line for a £5.2m share of the Champions' League prize-money pool, around a £1m share of TV revenue, and should have taken about £7m in home gate receipts. Arsenal, incidentally, earned around £6m from the competition.

Reaching the final will bring United another £2m from UEFA plus more than £500,000 in gate receipts. Since winning it will only bring in an extra million Swiss francs (£120,000), which is unlikely to cover the bonuses, the club may well be financially better off in the short term if they lost the final.

However, long term, they will profit from a win as the enhancement of the club's profile would have spin-offs in terms of sponsorship and merchandising. In addition, noted Edwards, while there may not be any more money it may be easier to attract players.

He said: "At the end of their career players want to look back on what they have won and if we are doing well in competitions like this they will be more interested in joining us. There are many great players who have not won the medals their ability and status warrants. Bryan Robson was sadly coming to the end of his career with us when we began winning championships while Alan Shearer has not won as much as his ability would merit."

Shearer, of course, has another chance to pick up an FA Cup winners' medal when his Newcastle United team play Manchester United at Wembley on 22 May but, four days later, he will only be a television spectator as the club he twice spurned contest the European Cup final.

Keegan hails performance that 'lays ghosts' of past failure

THE ENGLAND coach, Kevin Keegan, has hailed Manchester United's European Cup success over Juventus as a "breathtaking fillip for English football".

Keegan believes the Red Devils' 3-2 semi-final, second-leg triumph in Turin on Wednesday has "laid all the ghosts" after years of under-achieving by English clubs on the Continent.

Keegan did not witness at first hand United's memorable comeback from 2-0 down after 10 minutes as he was taking charge of Fulham's Second Division match with Millwall at

Craven Cottage. But he admitted to feeling elated after finding out the outcome of the semi-final in Italy.

"It was a great performance," Keegan said. "To go to Italy where they have not been successful in the past, to come up against the pedigree of side they were facing and to win was magnificent."

"What United's win does is lay all the ghosts that people talk about regarding English football and how we have done in Europe. People go on about the ban and all the years we missed, and then there was the

period when the Scots, Irish and Welsh players couldn't play because of the rules.

"It meant Manchester United were winning the [Premier] League with one team and then baving to play a very weakened side in Europe because of the foreigners rule. Now every team takes part on merit and they have proved to be worthy. It is terrific. It gives us all a boost and a big fillip."

Sir Bobby Charlton, who captained United to their previous European Cup win back in 1968 and is now a director of the club, said he hopes their

manager, Alex Ferguson, can end their long wait to lift the trophy again. He claims that would be just reward for Ferguson, who he regards as the best motivator in the game. "Alex is a magical manager; he really is," Sir Bobby said. "He is the greatest motivator there's ever been and that I know of."

"We've got to win it now. We've done the hard part and got through."

The Italian press were generous in their praise of Juve's conquerors. "United newspaper wrote: 'An extraordinary Manchester United has

knocked Juventus out of the European Cup semi-finals. As arrogant as Ferguson may be, his team are splendid and divine in equal measure. And after the suffering of their 1-1 draw in the first leg, they put on a majestic performance in Turin. They deserved to win, thanks to the superb skill of Cole, who produced a truly wonderful display of football."

Tuttosport also took time to criticise a key Juventus player: "On its most important night of the season, Carlo Ancelotti's team was betrayed by the very player who should have given

them that extra gear. That player is called Zinedine Zidane. The World Cup and 1998 Golden Ball winner last night was unrecognisable, irritating, useless. Zidane doesn't like Turin? He misses the sea? He'd prefer Barcelona or Marseille? He can go where he likes, so long as he goes. He doesn't deserve to stay."

Corriere dello Sport took a similar line: "Sport is also about weighing up the strengths on both sides and accepting the result. There was no contest between Juve and Manchester on any level: it's only honest to

admit that and to put our hands together for the team who pulled off the feat of the year. The English won it in every corner of the pitch; only they could have kept believing after the ephemeral show by Inzaghi."

The Juventus World Cup-winning captain, Didier Deschamps, admitted: "United played superbly. We did well in the first 20 minutes but after that we really suffered and they deserved to win. We should have won the away leg but at 2-0 up here we should have done the hardest part."

Bayern dance to music of Matthaus

A GENERATION ago, their names rolled off the tongue like a who's who of football legends. Franz Beckenbauer, Sepp Maier, Paul Breitner, Gerd "Der Bomber" Muller. Three times in the mid-1970s, they won European football's richest prize.

Beckenbauer, wearing the proudest of smiles, was there again, on Wednesday night as the current Bayern Munich vintage reached the final of the European Cup, which has now been revamped to include the Champions' League.

The influence of the Kaiser, now the club's president, still pervades Bavaria's footballing capital. He was, significantly, one of the first to be interviewed after the 1-0 victory that gave Bayern a 4-3 aggregate edge over Dynamo Kiev at

An old general makes Munich's new generation look better than the 1970s champions. By Andrew Warshaw

the state-of-the-art Olympic stadium.

Beckenbauer's joy was understandable. He has waited 23 years for his beloved Bayern to emulate the achievements of the past. They tried and failed 12 years ago when Porto beat them in the final in Vienna. Now comes Barcelona, and United. "This victory is decisive for Bayern and for German football," Beckenbauer said.

Already the comparisons between the finalists have begun. But are there really any genuine match-ups? Certainly, in Oliver Kahn, Peter Schmeichel has a strong rival as Europe's best goalkeeper. Kahn's two

fantastic early saves prevented a rampant Kiev from snatching the lead on Wednesday before the Ukrainians lost heart and their threat disintegrated.

There is no doubt either that in Ottmar Hitzfeld, who was in charge of the Borussia Dortmund side who won the trophy a couple of seasons back, Bayern have a coach with the same motivating skills as Alex Ferguson, and an acute football brain to go with it. The psychological warfare between the two of them over the next month should be interesting.

There, however, individual comparisons effectively end. Mario Basler's sensational

first-half strike deserved to win the tie but Bayern are in the final primarily because of their qualities of commitment, concentration and determination rather than for any individual moments of magic. On Wednesday, they allowed Kiev to come at them, soaked up all that the Ukrainians had to offer, and then went on to win more comfortably than the scoreline suggests.

The greatest threat to Manchester United, as far as outfield players are concerned, could come from someone who can hardly be termed an up-and-coming star but who is still spraying passes around to

devastating effect when most players his age have gone into management, or retired altogether. Lothar Matthaus, at 38, continues to defy footballing logic and he read the game superbly on Wednesday. Andriy Shevchenko and Serhiy Rebrov, touted as Europe's most dangerous strike force, were snuffed out. Now for Cole and Yorke.

Bayern's general manager, Uli Hoenes, who played in the great side of the 1970s, believes that this team, packed with international players, is possibly even stronger. "To be truthful, there were only a few who were exceptional back then," he said. "There is more in-depth strength in today's team."

How many times have we

heard throughout the season that the European Cup, in its current guise, is not worthy of being referred to as the Champions' League when it allows non-champions to take part? Will people utter the same complaints now that two of the Continent's most powerful teams have reached the final?

Try telling Bayern that they do not deserve to be taking on United next month. Just like Ferguson's team, the Germans believe they have got there on merit.

"Everyone here wanted to play United in what we think is the dream final," said Stefan Effenberg, the one-time enfant terrible of German football. "We were unlucky to have been drawn together at the group stage. Justice has been done."



Dynamo Kiev's Vladislav Vaschuk (left) and Alexander Zickler clash during Bayern's 1-0 second-leg win. AP

The legend of Anfield laid to rest

IAN MARSHALL saw enough teams come to Liverpool and freeze when he stood on the Anfield terraces as a child to know all about the ground's famous fear factor. Now the Leicester striker believes the Reds' fall from grace is so marked that opponents treat games at the home of the four-time European Cup winners as just another match.

Marshall's last-minute winner on Wednesday night drove a stake into the heart of all associated with Liverpool, the former Everton star adding insult to the injury inflicted by Manchester United's victory in Turin. Gérard Houllier's side are on course for an ignominious end to the season, with defeat to Leicester coming just four days after Aston Villa triumphed at Anfield.

Although Marshall can see light at the end of the tunnel for Liverpool, he said the days when sides such as the Foxes would quake at the thought of facing Liverpool are consigned to the distant past.

"Three or four years ago we would have gone there, got pressed back, not got a kick - and 2-0 or 3-0 might have been on the cards," he said. "I don't think they're as good now as they were then. I've been in the game a long time, and 10 years ago we would have been frightened. I think it might have been 4-0 or 5-0. It was very, very difficult to go to Anfield."

FOOTBALL
BY STEVEN BAKER

"It's not the fortress of old. I think now people think about going to Manchester United as being the most difficult place - 10 years ago it was Liverpool. I used to go there as a kid many years ago, and there was a tremendous roar. It was a bit muted last night. We were confident and geared up before the kick-off, especially with Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler out, and we thought we would get something out of the game."

Houllier faces a busy summer wheeling and dealing, trying to offload dead wood while persuading top-drawer players that a successful future awaits them at Anfield. Liverpool's French manager does not even have the carrot of European football to dangle in front of the world's best, but Marshall is confident the Reds will be at the forefront of the game again soon.

"I don't know what they're going to do at the end of the season - it's not for me to say - but they'll have to rebuild," said the 33-year-old. "I think they're going to try and get as many points this season and finish on a high note. They've always been a good passing team and they can spray it about. With two main strikers out they won't score many goals be-

cause they're two world-class players - and being without one of them is bad for them. But Liverpool are a big club and they have to be battling to compete with Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea. I can see them doing it. They have the financial clout to back it. They've got some great players. Some things haven't worked out for them, but I can definitely see things picking up."

Marshall's team-mate Poulton Kaamark is also upbeat about Liverpool's prospects despite being part of the second Foxes team in two seasons to win at Anfield. Kaamark was impressive alongside the captain, Matt Elliott, at the heart of a Leicester defence which kept their opponents under a tight rein. The Swede said: "We were lucky to survive the first 15 minutes because they hammered us and had lots of chances. But the more the game went we had more control, even if they still created chances."

"It seems they have low confidence. I've been in that situation myself in Sweden with IFK Gothenburg, who were the champions. It's not easy to get up there all the time - you get a few injuries, you get a few losses, and there's so much pressure on them. There are so many expectations, and they have good players. All they can do is try to grind on and hopefully they can get a break."



Fernando Cardozo, of Uruguay, dribbles past Tatsuya Ishikawa during Japan's 2-1 win in Nigeria in the semi-final of the World Youth Championship on Wednesday

Robins poised to progress upwards

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK
BY RUPERT METCALF

NUNEATON BOROUGH have already won promotion to next season's Nationwide Conference by easily winning the Dr Martens League title. Altrincham and Sutton United look like joining the Midlands side in non-League football's elite division next term.

After two seasons out of the Conference, Altrincham are poised to win the Unibond League. The Cheshire side are not in action tomorrow but their two title rivals, Workop Town and Guiseley, meet at the former's Sandy Lane ground. If that game is drawn, Altrincham can secure the championship with a win at Frickley Athletic next Tuesday.

Even if they slip up then, the Robins will still have two more league games in which to secure the points they need. They would also go up as runners-up in the unlikely event of Workop winning the title, because Sandy Lane does not meet Conference requirements.

In the Ryman League, thanks to Aylesbury United's unexpected 1-0 home defeat to Heybridge Swifts on Tuesday Sutton United could have claimed the title and promotion to the Conference with a home win against Aldershot Town on the same evening. Heavy rain made the Gander Green Lane pitch unplayable, however, and the two sides were trying again last night.

Farnborough Town were relegated from the Conference last weekend. Leek and Welling are likely to join them.

Endgame set for play-off pay-off

BY NICK HARRIS

MEANINGLESS END-OF-SEASON fixtures? Where? We might be just three weeks from the end of the football season, but the majority of Premier and Nationwide League clubs still have everything to play for.

In the Third Division, Exeter, in 13th place, could still snatch a play-off place if they hit a purple patch. The openness of the division is exemplified by Rochdale, in 16th place. They are still not mathematically certain of losing out on promotion and yet could still finish with less points than the current bottom side, Scarborough.

The Third Division title could still be won by any one of six sides, and although Cambridge, Cardiff and Brentford are the favourites for the automatic promotion spots, they could yet be usurped by Scunthorpe, Rotherham or Leyton Orient.

At the top end of the game, most of the key issues have yet to be decided, including the Premiership title and which teams will be relegated. The title could (mathematically) still go to Leeds, especially as they have to play all three sides above them. More realistically, only Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea are still in contention, with United's game in hand making them the favourites. The run-ins for the top three are similarly difficult, with each having to play against at least three sides from Leeds (4th), Aston Villa (5th), Middlesbrough (7th), Derby (8th) and Spurs (9th). Arsenal have to play all five.

If Chelsea slip up, Leeds still have a chance of pipping them for the third Champions' League spot. The only other European issue to be settled is which of Villa or Boro will finish highest to claim a place in the Inter-Toto Cup.

At the bottom of the Premiership, Forest are not yet mathematically down, but probably will be by Saturday night. The relegation battle could yet see Sheffield Wednesday (14th) dragged into trouble, but it is more likely that two of Blackburn, Charlton and Southampton will go down with Forest.

The Second Division title is already Fulham's, but Walsall, Manchester City or Preston could yet take the second automatic spot. The bottom 13 sides could still go down. The situation is similar in the First Division, with Ipswich and Bradford in contention to join Sunderland in automatic promotion, and congestion at the foot of the table.

PROMOTION AND RELEGATION: WHO PLAYS WHO IN THE RUN-IN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Top two go into Champions' League, while third placed team will enter the qualifying rounds. A further three teams qualify for the UEFA Cup in League (currently Leeds), Worthington Cup winners (Tottenham) and FA Cup winners (Leeds), by default, as Manchester United are almost certain to qualify by finishing in the top three. There could be an extra UEFA Cup place if England top Europe's FA Play League; Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester are favourites should place be granted. One club will go into the Inter-Toto Cup; this will be the club that finishes highest in the table out of those that have applied to take part. Aston Villa or Middlesbrough are the only clubs in with a realistic chance. An Inter-Toto semi-final appearance would then secure a UEFA Cup place. Goal difference (GD) column used to separate teams level on points.

	P	Pts	GD	Remaining fixtures
Manchester Utd	32	67	40	Leeds (a), Villa (h), Liverpool (a), Middlesbrough (a), Blackburn (a), Spurs (h), Arsenal (a), Chelsea (a), Aston Villa (h)
Arsenal	33	66	34	Middlesbrough (a), Derby (h), Spurs (h), Leeds (a), Aston Villa (h)
Chelsea	33	64	34	Sheff Wed (a), Everton (h), Leeds (h), Tottenham (a), W Ham (a), Chelsea (a), Arsenal (h), Coventry (a)
Leeds Utd	33	59	24	Man Utd (h), W Ham (a), Chelsea (a), Arsenal (h), Coventry (a)
Aston Villa	34	52	6	Noton Forest (h), Man Utd (a), Charlton (h), Arsenal (a), Middlesbrough (h)
West Ham	34	51	-2	Tottenham (a), Leeds (h), Everton (a), Middlesbrough (h)
Middlesbrough	34	50	4	Arsenal (h), Newcastle (a), Man Utd (h), W Ham (a)
Derby	33	47	-4	Southampton (h), Arsenal (a), Leicester (a), Coventry (h), Chelsea (a)
Tottenham	33	46	2	W Ham (h), Liverpool (a), Arsenal (h), Chelsea (h), Man Utd (a)
Liverpool	33	44	14	Blackburn (a), Spurs (h), Man Utd (h), Sheff Wed (a), Middlesbrough (h)
Newcastle	34	43	-4	Wimbledon (a), Middlesbrough (h), Leicester (a), Blackburn (h)
Leicester	33	43	-6	Coventry (h), Southampton (h), Derby (h), Newcastle (h), Noton Forest (a)
Wimbledon	34	41	-17	Newcastle (h), Coventry (a), Southampton (h), Liverpool (h)
Sheff Wed	34	39	-1	Chelsea (h), Noton Forest (a), Liverpool (h), Charlton (a)
Everton	34	37	-10	Charlton (h), Chelsea (a), W Ham (h), Southampton (a)
Coventry	34	37	-12	Leicester (a), Wimbledon (h), Derby (a), Leeds (h)
Blackburn	33	32	-11	Liverpool (h), Charlton (a), Noton F (h), Man Utd (h), Newcastle (h)
Charlton	34	32	-12	Derby (a), Blackburn (h), Aston Villa (a), Sheff Wed (h)
Southampton	34	31	-32	Derby (a), Leicester (h), Wimbledon (a), Everton (h)
Noton Forest	34	21	-36	A Villa (a), Sheff Wed (h), Blackburn (a), Leicester (h)

NATIONWIDE SECOND DIVISION

Top two with automatic promotion; third, fourth, fifth and sixth placed teams go into play-offs; bottom four relegated. Goals scored (under column GS) used to separate teams level on points.

	P	Pts	GS	Remaining fixtures
Fulham	42	96	73	Wrexham (h), Burnley (a), Walsall (a), Preston (h)
Walsall	42	80	57	Lincoln (h), Bristol R (a), York (h)
Man City	43	78	62	Wrexham (a), Notts Co (h), Fulham (a), Notts Co (h)
Preston	43	77	75	Oldham (a), Stoke (h), Notts Co (a)
Gillingham	43	71	66	Barnley (h), Colchester (a), Gillingham (h), Oldham (a), Walsall (h)
Bournemouth	42	71	61	Barnley (h), Middlesbrough (h), Gillingham (a), Oldham (a), Walsall (h)
Stoke	41	63	54	Reading (h), Lincoln (h), Northampton (a), Wrexham (a), Burnley (a), Walsall (a), Wycombe (a), Luton (a), Northampton (h), Wigan (a)
Wigan	39	62	59	Reading (h), Lincoln (h), Northampton (a), Wrexham (a), Burnley (a), Walsall (a), Wycombe (a), Luton (a), Northampton (h), Wigan (a)
Middlesbrough	42	62	45	Wycombe (a), Luton (a), Northampton (h), Wigan (a)
Reading	43	58	51	Preston (h), Bristol R (a), Reading (a), Luton (h)
Blackpool	42	52	39	Bristol R (h), York (a), Wycombe (a), Colchester (h)
Wrexham	42	51	42	Fulham (a), Wigan (h), Lincoln (a), Burnley (h), Colchester (h), Gillingham (h)
Notts Co	41	49	48	Luton (h), Wycombe (h), Preston (a), Middlesbrough (h), Gillingham (h)
Luton	42	49	46	Notts Co (a), Colchester (h), Middlesbrough (h), Gillingham (h), Lincoln (h), Blackpool (a)
Colchester	42	48	45	Northampton (a), Bournemouth (h), Lincoln (h), Blackpool (a)
Barnley	42	47	47	Stoke (a), Fulham (h), Wigan (a), Northampton (a)
Bristol R	42	46	54	Blackpool (h), Millwall (h), Man City (h), Middlesbrough (a)
Oldham	42	45	54	Gillingham (h), Walsall (a), Stoke (h), Reading (h)
York	42	44	53	Middlesbrough (a), Blackpool (h), Bournemouth (h), Man City (a)
Northampton	42	44	35	Colchester (h), Wigan (h), Burnley (h), Middlesbrough (a), Preston (h)
Wycombe	41	41	45	Man City (a), Notts Co (h), Blackpool (h), Wigan (a), Lincoln (a)
Lincoln City	41	40	37	Walsall (h), Wigan (a), Colchester (h), Wrexham (h), Wycombe (h)
Middlesbrough	41	39	35	York (h), Stoke (h), Luton (a), Notts Co (a), Bristol R (h)

NATIONWIDE FIRST DIVISION

Top two with automatic promotion; third, fourth, fifth and sixth placed teams go into play-offs; bottom three relegated. Goals scored (under column GS) used to separate teams level on points.

	P	Pts	GS	Remaining fixtures
Sunderland	43	98	88	Sheff Utd (h), Stockport (h), Birmingham (h)
Ipswich	43	83	64	Gillingham (h), Birmingham (a), Sheff Utd (h)
Bradford	43	80	76	QPR (a), Oxford (h), Wolves (a)
Birmingham	43	75	62	Bristol City (a), Ipswich (h), Sunderland (a)
Bolton	43	72	74	Bury (a), Wolves (h)
Wolves	43	70	60	West Brom (h), Bolton (a), Bristol City (h)
Watford	42	67	58	C Palace (h), Port Vale (a), Barnsley (a), Grimsby (h)
Sheff Utd	43	63	67	Sunderland (a), Bristol City (h), Ipswich (h)
Huddersfield	43	59	60	Crewe (a), Watford (h), Huddersfield (h), QPR (a)
C Palace	43	57	55	Watford (a), Huddersfield (h), QPR (a)
Grimsby	42	57	39	Swindon (a), Tranmere (h), Wolves (h), Watford (a)
Norwich	43	56	56	Oxford (a), Swindon (h), Bristol City (h)
West Brom	43	55	66	Wolves (a), Bury (h), Tranmere (h)
Stockport	43	53	48	Portsmouth (a), Sunderland (h), Oxford (a)
Tranmere	43	52	59	Port Vale (h), Grimsby (a), West Brom (h)
Barnsley	43	52	53	Huddersfield (a), Watford (h), Swindon (a)
Swindon	43	47	55	Grimsby (h), Norwich (h), Barnsley (h)
Portsmouth	43	44	53	Stockport (h), Crewe (a)
QPR	43	44	45	Bradford (h), Port Vale (a), C Palace (h)
Port Vale	42	43	41	Tanmere (a), Watford (h), QPR (h), Bury (a)
Bury	43	41	32	Bolton (h), West Brom (a), Port Vale (h)
Oxford Utd	43	40	41	Norwich (h), Bradford (a), Stockport (h)
Bristol City	42	39	54	Birmingham (h), Crewe (a), Sheff Utd (a), Norwich (h)
Crewe	42	38	48	Bristol City (h), Huddersfield (a)

NATIONWIDE THIRD DIVISION

Top three with automatic promotion; third, fourth, fifth and sixth placed teams go into play-offs; bottom club relegated to the Nationwide Conference. Goals scored (under column GS) used to separate teams level on points.

	P	Pts	GS	Remaining fixtures
Cambridge Utd	41	76	73	Peterborough (h), Rochdale (a), Plymouth (a), Swanssea (a), Brentford (h)
Cardiff	43	76	58	Scunthorpe (a), Scunthorpe (h), Mansfield (h)
Brentford	41	72	65	Southend (a), Darlington (h), Exeter (h), Swanssea (h), Cambridge (a), Darlington (h), Cardiff (a)
Scunthorpe	42	70	66	Cardiff (h), Halifax (a), Cardiff (a), Darlington (h)
Rotherham	42	68	75	Quekay (a), Barnet (h), Brighton (h), Chester (a)
Leyton O	42	68	60	Sheff Utd (h), Hartlepool (h), Peterborough (h), Barnet (h)
Halifax	42	62	53	Quekay (a), Scunthorpe (h), Scunthorpe (h), Exeter (a)
Swanssea	41	62	46	Plymouth (h), Rochdale (a), Brentford (a), Cambridge (h), Hull (h)
Peterborough	43	61	67	Cambridge (a), Leyton O (h), Scunthorpe (h)
Mansfield	42	61	55	Hartlepool (h), Exeter (h), Quekay (a), Cambridge (h), Cardiff (h)
Darlington	41	57	58	Cardiff (a), Brentford (h), Chester (h), Exeter (h), Scunthorpe (a)
Plymouth	42	57	52	Swanssea (h), Cambridge (h), Scunthorpe (a), Cardiff (a)
Exeter	41	54	42	Rochdale (h), Mansfield (a), Brentford (a), Darlington (h), Halifax (h)
Barnet	42	53	50	Scunthorpe (a), Rotherham (h), Swanssea (h), Leyton O (a)
Brighton	43	53	47	Hull (h), Rotherham (a), Rochdale (h)
Rochdale	42	53	40	Exeter (a), Cambridge (h), Peterborough (h), Brighton (a)
Chester	43	52	52	Halifax (h), Darlington (a), Rotherham (h)
Southend	43	50	48	Brentford (h), Barnet (a), Hartlepool (h)
Shrewsbury	43	50	47	Leyton O (a), Mansfield (h), Rotherham (h)
Torquay	43	50	45	Rotherham (h), Hull (a), Shrewsbury (h)
Hull	43	49	43	Brighton (a), Torquay (h), Mansfield (h), Leyton O (h), Cardiff (h), Southend (h)
Hartlepool	42	46	50	Darlington (h), Hartlepool (a), Plymouth (h)
Cardiff	43	44	38	Darlington (h), Halifax (a), Plymouth (h)
Scarborough	42	41	43	Cardiff (h), Peterborough (h)

ATHLETICS

Paul Tergat, the 29-year-old world cross-country champion, has announced that he will step up to marathon running after next year's Olympics. In the meantime Tergat is competing in tomorrow's Compaq Road Race at Balmoral where his principal rivals include the 1992 Olympic gold medalist, Khalid Khannouchi of Morocco.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 5 Oakland 4; Detroit 9 Boston 2; Toronto 3 Anaheim 1; New York Yankees 4 Texas 2; Tampa Bay 14 Baltimore 6; Chicago White Sox 2 Scottsdale 1; Kansas City 3 Minnesota 2 (10 innings). NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 10 Colorado 2; Milwaukee 2 St Louis 1; San Francisco 4 Florida 0; Cincinnati 7 New York Mets 4; Arizona 4 Philadelphia 2; San Diego 2 Pittsburgh 0; Atlanta 11 Los Angeles 4 (12 innings); Montreal at Colorado (postponed).

BASKETBALL

The British League will be split into north and south conferences for the 1999-2000 season, abolishing the League Championship and replacing it with a play-off system to decide the championship team.

WEST: Philadelphia 80 Boston 78; Toronto 107 Washington 91; Charlotte 89 Detroit 85; Miami 93 Cleveland 80; New Jersey 99 Chicago Bulls 108 Milwaukee 90; Dallas 119 Houston 55; Phoenix 81 Utah 82; Portland 88 LA Lakers 82; Seattle 119 Minnesota 105; Vancouver 97 LA Clippers 94; Sacramento 103 Golden State 99.

BOWLS

GREENSLANDS SPRING WATERLOO (Blackpool) First round: 1 Rigg (Barnet) bt A Proctor (Stockport) 21-20; C Bebbington (Hartington) bt J. Bebbington (Barnet) 21-16; P. Wilkins (Preston) bt R. Mowbray (Barnet) 21-15; R. Wignall (Wigan) bt G. Parkinson (Wigan) 21-16; M. Funn (Chadsmoor) bt J. Ball (Tarlton) 21-17.

CYCLING

The British Cycling Federation has launched a long-term campaign to thrust Great Britain into the world's elite. The Federation will use a £2.4m grant from the Lottery Sports Fund to help the cream of British cyclists, providing the 50 top men and women with around £45,000 each to compete in world events.

FOOTBALL

Southampton's Stuart Ripley has been banned for three games after being sent off during a reserve game at Swindon. Ripley, 31, was also fined two weeks' wages by his club.

Nico Vassens, the Huddersfield Town goalkeeper, has agreed a three-year contract with the First Division club.

Luke Young, the Tottenham central defender, has won his first England Under-21 call-up for the friendly international with Hungary in Budapest next Tuesday.

ENGLAND SQUAD (Friendly international vs Hungary, Budapest, 27 April): Ball (Everton), Batty (Aston Villa), Beattie (Southampton), Bowyer (Leeds), Bridges (Sunderland), Carragher (Liverpool), Carr (Wimbledon), Creaswell (Sheff Wednesday), Curran (Manchester Utd), Fowler (Newcastle), Hargreaves (Aston Villa), L. Marshall (Norwich), Little (Charlton), Morris (Chelsea), Huddlestone (Preston), Roberts (Leeds), Rogers (Nottingham Forest), Shearer (Everton), Wright (Ipswich), Young (Tottenham).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
7.30 untelevised
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
Preston (h) vs
Bury (a) Bolton (7.45)
RUI HARRIS LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bournemouth vs Watford, Bay Wanderers vs Sligo Rovers, Shamrock Rovers vs St Patrick's Athletic.
First Division: Bournemouth vs Watford, Shamrock Rovers vs St Patrick's Athletic.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JOB SPORTS
SUPER LEAGUE
Bradford v Halifax (7.30)

OTHER SPORTS

GOLF: Scottish Women's Strokeplay (at Troon).
MOTOR RACING: British Superbike Championship Qualifying practice (at Oulton Park).
SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship (at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).

SPORTING DIGEST

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE Second Division
Preston v Northampton (Saturday, 7.30)
MAY

GOLF

Darren Clarke has parted company with his coach Peter Cowen and is to take a three-week break from competitive golf to recover from injury. "I do not have any pre-conceived ideas about Scotland," Cowen said. "I think I will be better working it out for myself for a while," the Irish golfer said.

HOCKEY

ENGLAND SQUAD (Champions' Trophy, Sheffield): First round: 1 Hendry (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 2 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 3 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 4 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 5 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 6 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 7 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 8 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 9 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 10 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 11 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 12 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 13 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 14 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 15 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 16 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 17 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 18 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 19 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 20 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 21 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 22 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 23 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 24 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 25 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 26 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 27 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 28 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 29 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 30 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 31 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 32 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 33 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 34 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 35 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 36 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 37 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 38 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 39 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 40 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 41 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 42 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 43 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 44 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 45 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 46 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 47 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 48 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 49 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 50 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 51 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 52 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 53 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 54 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 55 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 56 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 57 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 58 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 59 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 60 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 61 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 62 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 63 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 64 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 65 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 66 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 67 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 68 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 69 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 70 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 71 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 72 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 73 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 74 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 75 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 76 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 77 McDonald (SCO) bt C Hunter (ENG) 3-6; 7

SPORT

BUTTON IN THE FAST LANE P22 • THE TAMING OF TURIN P26

Keegan gives colts their chance

AFTER A week of horse-trading with the game's leading trainers, Kevin Keegan yesterday revealed a coltish England squad full of each-way bets but, he hopes, with enough thoroughbred favourites to prevent an embarrassing fall in Hungary next week.

Both Alex Ferguson and Arsène Wenger, the managers of Manchester United and Arsenal, were given the opportunity to hold back a brace of players from the friendly international. David Beckham, Gary Neville, Tony Adams and Ray Parlour were thus excused duty in Budapest next Wednesday. "A common sense arrangement," Keegan said.

Of his own volition Keegan then omitted Paul Ince, Darren Anderton, Andy Hinchcliffe and Teddy Sheringham from the 22-man party. In their place came six uncapped players: Wes Brown of Manchester United, Jonathon Woodgate of Leeds United, the Sunderland pair of Michael Gray and Kevin Phillips, Frank Lampard, West Ham's England Under-21 captain, and Emile Heskey of Leicester.

Only Heskey has previously been called up, by Glenn Hoddle in September 1997. Phillips, at 25, is the oldest, 19-year-old Woodgate the youngest.

One or two of these players will get a chance, said Keegan. "To change their lives". He added: "They will either grab it with both hands - or it will be too much for them."

To judge from Keegan's hints, Gray is the most likely debutant. Left-back is a problem position with, Keegan said, "only six or seven" Englishmen of sufficient quality in the country. If the 24-year-old was picked it would cap a remarkable 11 months in which he has recovered from the despair of missing the penalty that kept Sunderland down last season to play a prominent part in their promotion to the Premiership this time around. If capped, he would be Sunderland's first England player since Nick Pickering 18 years ago.

Phillips, too, has shone in the Nationwide though Keegan admitted both were fortunate that he lives in the North-east and has thus been well aware of their progress. Not that the former Newcastle manager has yet been to the Stadium of Light in person, at least if he goes now he should get a warmer reception.

As Keegan's admission that he had not been to Wearmouth

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

suggests, these are hunch picks especially as the pair have limited Premiership experience.

The others are not. The precocious quality of Woodgate and Brown - "at any other club, except Arsenal, he'd not only be a first-team regular but also be the best player," said Keegan of Brown - is well known while Lampard and Heskey are overdue promotion from the under-21s.

For all these fresh faces the core of the team, for a match which serves as the warm-up for the June European Championship tie in Bulgaria, will be based on the team that beat Poland last month. Nine of the starting 11 are included and Keegan is anxious to keep Andy Cole and Alan Shearer together in attack and Sol Campbell and Keown paired at the back.

Steve McManaman, a disappointment against Poland, is likely to get another chance, probably on the right. Keegan may play 3-5-2 rather than 4-4-2 but much depends who is injured at the weekend - Sunday's Leeds United-Manchester United game includes eight of the squad, while Rio Ferdinand and Martin Keown are already carrying knocks.

Chris Armstrong (surprisingly dropped having been called into the last squad) and Steve Guppy, who was unfortunate not to be picked, head the list of possible replacements.

Keegan, his England track suit incongruous in the plush surroundings of a West London hotel, added that he had spoken to Ince and that both he and Anderton remained in strong contention for a place in the summer squad. So did Robbie Fowler, if he could maintain match fitness despite his nose operation and long suspension. Paul Gascoigne, like Teddy Sheringham, had to play more full games at club level.

With an average age, among the outfielders, of 23 it is one of England's least experienced squads. It is far from the weakest, however. As recently as 1991 England, while touring Australasia and Malaysia, capped six debutants: Mark Walters, Brian Deane, Gary Charles, John Salako, David Hirst and Earl Barrett. After their return they won five caps between them. The likes of Brown, Woodgate and Lampard are likely to have a more lasting impact.



Kevin Keegan, at Lancaster Gate yesterday, struck a balance between experience and experiment in his England squad to face Hungary on Wednesday

Allsport

ENGLAND SQUAD

Seaman (Arsenal), Martyn (Leeds), Campbell (Tottenham), R Ferdinand (West Ham), Keown (Arsenal), Le Saux (Chelsea), P Neville (Man Utd), Brown (Man Utd), Southgate (Aston Villa), Woodgate (Leeds), Gray (Sunderland), Barry (Leeds), Lampard (West Ham), McManaman (Liverpool), Redknapp (Liverpool), Scholes (Man Utd), Butt (Man Utd), Sheringham (Tottenham), Shearer (Newcastle), Cole (Man Utd), Phillips (Sunderland), Heskey (Leicester).

United fans dismayed by low ticket allocation

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

OUTRAGED Manchester United fans were told yesterday they were only likely to receive 25,000 tickets for their team's first European Cup final in 31 years.

News of the probable allocation for the final against Bayern Munich in Barcelona's 115,000-seat Nou Camp Stadium on 26 May was branded "ridiculous" by the club's supporters' organisation.

Lee Hodgkins, a spokesman for the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association, said the decision would mean thousands of fans travelling without tickets and black-market prices reaching astronomical levels.

A spokeswoman for Uefa, European football's governing body, said that officials would meet today to decide on the precise allocation, but it would "probably" be 25,000 for each of the finalists. The remainder of

the tickets would be allocated by Spanish football authorities.

United supporters have waited 31 years for a European Cup final since the historic victory of Sir Matt Busby's team over Benfica at Wembley in 1968. Hodgkins said an allocation of 50,000 for each of the finalists would be more realistic. "This is the game every supporter will want to go to," he said. "Most of them have waited a lifetime for a match like this."

"An allocation like this is a bit of a joke. There will be a huge black market and supporters will have to travel without tickets. To get less than half the stadium between us is ridiculous. We get more than this for Wembley."

"It is not just our fans. The Bayern supporters are well-known for travelling away in large numbers."

Manchester United's assistant secretary, Ken Ramsden, said the club were still waiting to hear the official allocation. But he described the fans' demands for 50,000 tickets as "not realistic".

"We had 6,000 tickets for Wednesday night's match and only sold 4,000," he said. "We shall get as many tickets as we can get and obviously the Germans will do the same."

Security plans for the final will be closely reviewed, a Spanish football federation spokesman said yesterday. Today's meeting will include Uefa, the Spanish football federation, Barcelona local authorities and the Spanish police, as well as representatives from both clubs.

A Spanish football federation spokesman stressed that organisational meetings for the European Cup had been hap-

pening on a weekly basis since the Catalan city was awarded the final last year and that the meeting had not been convened at short notice.

Manchester United have agreed to play two matches against the Australian national team in July. They will reportedly receive around £4m to play matches in Melbourne and Sydney as part of their pre-season preparations. Sir Bobby Charlton, a United director, said the club would take a full squad to Australia.

The United defender Jaap Stam is a doubt for Sunday's Premiership match against Leeds at Elland Road.

The 26-year-old centre-back has pulled out of the Netherlands' friendly against Morocco next Wednesday because of an Achilles tendon injury picked up against Juventus on Wednesday.

Villa try to tempt Revivo from Vigo

BY ALAN NIXON

ASTON VILLA try to tie up a £6m deal for Celta Vigo's Israeli striker Haim Revivo today - but faces a fight with John Toshack's Real Madrid.

John Gregory, the Villa manager, has lined up a meeting with Revivo's agents after deciding the exciting attacker was his major summer transfer target. However, the player may be tempted to stay in Spain after Toshack revealed he was one of the top names on his shopping list too.

Revivo caught the eye against Liverpool this season, helping Celta win home and away in the Uefa Cup. Gregory wants him to play with Dion Dublin, a signing that would squeeze out Julian Joachim and leave Stan Collymore in the cold at Villa Park.

The Scottish Premier League is to hold an emergency board meeting after indications that Dundee are to accept finance after all from the controversial businessman Giovanni di Stefano. It has been reported that Dundee's vice-chairman, Derek Soutar, is to step down with Di Stefano, who has business interests in Serbia and Iraq, buying him out.

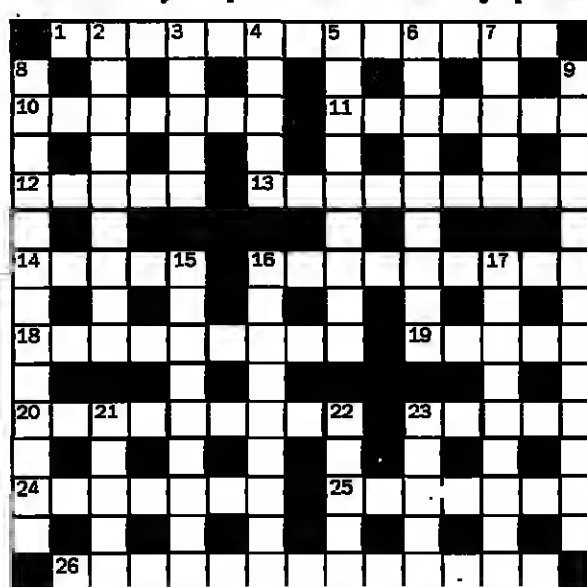
It has also been confirmed by the Scottish Premier League that its final round of fixtures on Sunday 23 May will kick off at 12.30pm and not at 8.05pm, as originally requested by Sky Television.

The long-running dispute between Celtic and Croatia Zagreb over the transfer of Mark Viduka to the Parkhead club was finally settled yesterday. Celtic withheld £1.5m of the transfer fee when the striker took unauthorised leave of absence in his homeland, Australia, soon after the deal was agreed. Zagreb received only £900,000 and his first club, Melbourne Knights, got £600,000, but the Croatian club have now had another payment.

Graham Kelly, the former chief executive of the Football Association, has ruled himself out of the running for the equivalent vacancy in Scotland.

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3904 Friday 23 April by Spurius



Thursday's solution

1. BAMBINO
2. DESIGNER
3. LIT
4. O P A
5. X
6. HUGH JACKMAN
7. VETO
8. CEREAL
9. LULU
10. A S E M
11. P
12. HEAD
13. BEEHIVE
14. HEADGEAR
15. DUEL
16. A W P H
17. MAGGOT
18. EMINENCE
19. TON L E S H
20. WING
21. FELLOWSHIP
22. O T E M E L
23. UNPLACED
24. SYSTEM

ACROSS

- 1 Official from station involved with admirer (not English) (13)
- 10 Show inner part of melon and grapefruit (?)
- 11 Defective was on heroin? Nonsense (7)
- 12 It's less impressive than the albatross of course (5)
- 13 Jack & Co to be confronted by prospect of redundancy? (4,5)
- 14 Broadcast makes haste to suggest anticyclones (5)
- 16 Band involved in furious melee will be susceptible to correction (9)
- 18 An old-fashioned pursuit (3,3,3)
- 19 Muffler from Cadillac

DOWN

- 2 Man giving address on street corner? (9)
- 3 Woman about to abandon Egyptian capitalist? (5)
- 4 Hazard accepted by
- 5 maybe found in southern France (5)
- 20 Phone in car enabling us to check who's there? (4,5)
- 23 Exercise involving a naval vessel being out (5)
- 24 Entertainer given support by registered occupational therapist? (7)
- 25 Tree we'd manhandled through entrance backwards (7)
- 26 Quantifiable attribute in materials I buy, perhaps? (13)

Montenegrin officer (2-3)
Skulduggery as Queen is kidnapped by freebooting yachtsman (9)

- 6 Series of numbers are found on cards around outskirts of Oxford (4,5)
- 7 Broadcasting in Old Norse and a little Irish (2,3)
- 8 Help in achieving utter perfection? (8,7)
- 9 Sofas and box monarch handles skidfully (13)
- 15 By being on the inside obtains cushy jobs (9)
- 16 Steps taken to fill or empty tube (9)
- 17 Plant fares badly in luggage compartment in story gets half forgotten (5)
- 21 Subject covered in storey gets half forgotten (5)
- 22 Untamed bush on either side of river - wattle, maybe (5)
- 23 Daughter wearing ring on foot? (5)

Arsenal seek new stadium

BY NEIL SILVER

ARSENAL ARE aiming to close the gap between themselves and Manchester United, by pushing ahead with plans to build a 60,000 capacity stadium. That may mean moving out of north London if the Gunners cannot extend Highbury or find a suitable sight within the borough of Islington.

Arsenal's vice chairman, David Dein, believes there is nothing to choose between the Premiership's top two clubs, even though United on Wednesday qualified for the final of the European Cup, while Arsenal failed to make it through the group stages. Nothing, that is, except the size of each club's home ground - Highbury presently holds 38,500, while Old Trafford can accommodate almost 20,000 more spectators.

"As clubs in the Premier League go, I genuinely don't feel there is a lot between us on

the playing field," Dein said. "We didn't win the Double last year by accident and United didn't get to the European Cup final this year by accident: we are both among the best teams in Europe."

"They are a great club, but we took four points off them in the League this season. The main difference is that they have a much bigger stadium and our mandate is that we need a stadium of not less than 60,000 people."

"We are on the case and it is priority No 1. You cannot just click your fingers and find a stadium in north London which holds 60,000 people. There is a process to go through and we want to stay here, but one of our options is to move out of the area if that is how we can get the stadium we need."



Nicolas Anelka (left) and Emmanuel Petit model the logo of Sega, Arsenal's new shirt sponsors

Allsport

Dein was speaking after unveiling the club's new shirt sponsors, in what is thought to be the biggest-ever deal in British football.

The video-game manufacturer Sega Europe will replace JVC on Arsenal's shirts after agreeing a three-year package estimated to be worth £12m to the club.

Dein has promised there will be transfer activity in the summer but warned that this sponsorship deal would not signal the start of a reckless spending spree.

"There will be movement in the summer," Dein said. "But spending money does not guarantee you success. We do not fly by the seat of our pants."

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



More Money

Another St George's Day, and how moved are you by that? Does the idea of a defiant beef-on-the-bone dinner, with Elgar soaring and crashing in the background, seem like a fitting way to mark the national day? Or perhaps a splash of red-and-white face-painting, à la Euro '96? For the less flamboyantly inclined, a red rose buttonhole is also an option. Or maybe, in fact almost definitely maybe, you will do nothing at all about it.

For all the attempts to arouse feelings of concerted pride in the breasts of Englishmen and women, most of Albion remains stubbornly unmoved by the feast The only truly ethusiastic groups appear to be right-wing newspaper columnists, doggedly prophesying a backlash to Scottish devolution, and publicans seeking an excuse to shift some more real ale.

Perhaps the problem lies with St George, a patron saint who has never made the grade. For a start, he is a mythologically vague figure even by the loose accuracy standards of hagiography. The English historian Gibbon identified him erroneously as George of Cappadocia. Hence the rumour that he was really Turkish. Father Andrew Burnham, a member of the Anglican committee which seeks to raise the profile of St George's Day, has joked that the English patron saint is really "a gentleman from Asia Minor".

This George was a fourth-century quartermaster-general with an eye for the main chance, who became Bishop of Alexandria, had a reputation for living high on the hog at the taxpayers' expense, and was torn to pieces by ungrateful members of his diocese in AD360.

But the St George adopted by the English church owes less to this engaging rogue than to a third-century martyr in Palestine, commemorated in the cults of the Greeks and the Coptic and Syrian Churches and still held in great reverence by the Orthodox Church of the East. A favoured tribune under the Emperor Diocletian, he was slain, the legend has it, on the Emperor's personal orders after converting to Christianity, as a warning to others who might be similarly tempted.

A council of the 14th-century English Church elected him national saint in the hope that his militancy would inspire Crusaders. The slaying of the dragoo was probably an allegorical representation of the triumph of Christianity over its foes.

Not having a patron saint with roots on one's home territory is a distinct drawback in sustaining national identity with a saint. St David has his monastery. St Patrick was part-Roman, a conqueror; rather than a son of Ireland - a fact compensated for by the seductive myth that he charmed snakes out of Ireland with his music.

Poor St George is far less firmly anchored in the national imagination. An acquaintance who teaches junior schoolchildren reports that an essay she sets at this time of year entitled "Who was St George?" often produces the answer: "He was King George, the Queen's father."

The lack of public engagement in St George's Day has other cultural explanations. Events have conspired over centuries to make us less attached to national festivities. After the Reformation, the Church of England sought to eclipse the appeal of Catholic saints with its own canon of Protestant martyrs, and largely succeeded. Saints' days, with their Roman Catholic connotations, were struck from the secular calendar. The old English rituals of May Day and morris dancing were cut back during the Civil War. As Britain rose to military and naval power to command an empire, it began to take some pride in distancing itself from excitable Continental nationalists. The radical leaders of the failed 1848 revolutions who streamed to London found the English to be wholly lacking in the romantic nationalist sentiment that was their natural mode of discourse. The thrub of commerce, the materialism of middle-class Victorians and the emphasis on industrial prowess seemed to them to show a temperament lacking in passionate belief in one's country as much more than a delivery system for power and prosperity. The German poet Heinrich Heine bemoaned "the mere seriousness of everything, the colossal uniformity, the machine-like movement". H G Wells looked at the Bavarians in their *Lederhosen* and professed himself relieved that the English had no national dress.

The Victorians were patriotic about the Empire, but were not given to the kind of poetic extravagance about identity that marked out Italian, French and German nationalism in the 19th century. The attempt to revive a kind of nationalism of the soul, as well as of the map, is a post-First World War phenomenon. Indeed, it

could be argued that mystical English nationalism grew as Imperial might decreased. In recent times its chief exponent, Enoch Powell, was aware that he played on the power of inexact but evocative archaic sentiments when he pitched his stirring speech to the Royal Society of St George in April 1922 in the language of pagan reverence:

"Tell us what it is that holds us together; show us the clue that leads through a thousand years; whisper to us the secret of this charmed life of England, that we in our time may know how to hold it fast." The speech is a brilliant example of the power of irrationoicism. On certain Tory souls, this rhetoric has the effect of an emotional drug. For those who pine today for an English identity free of the encumbrances of Britishness, it offers a return to a pure national continuum.

Powell is the great poet of political Englishness. But his emphasis of continuity and instinct, and his tendency to downplay the benefits of heterogeneity, make him a rallying-point for those whose definitions of Englishness are racially exclusive, or seek to suppress the impact of other cultures on English sensibilities: "The unbroken line of the English nation over a thousand years and more is unique in history," writes Powell, "the product of a specific set of circumstances like those which in biology are supposed to start by chance a new line of evolution."

Or maybe not. Like all unmoderated nationalisms, Powell's teeters on the brink of absurdity. It is too close to self-parody to be widely shared. The robust English yeoman of Powell's imagination is quite likely to respond "Come off it" to these outpourings. But his intellectual legacy remains strong. We glimpse it, albeit in far cruder form, in the sales manager Alan Ford, who sent the BBC into a tizzy with his forthright *Counterblast*, complaining that the only identity not allowed free rein within the United Kingdom was that of the white Anglo-Saxon.

"I want my country back and that is the bottom line," says Mr Ford. He thinks that people cannot be black and English, or Indian and English at the same time, but is prepared to make an exception for Jews, "as my wife's partly it and they've suffered enough already".

The aggrieved tone of those who wish to promote an English identity free of ungrateful Scots or the treacherous Europeans is its least edifying side. "We are becoming an un-people, fit only to play the villains in Hollywood movies," moaned a *Sun* leader on St George's Day last year. The stiff upper lip threatens to give way to the blubbering howl of angry resentment. The most depressing aspect of this populist variant of nationalism is that it is wholly negative. It sets out to unite people, not in common understanding, but in resentment. Merrie England this is not.

Once Mr Ford's crusades, besides the lack of wishing to offend the Empire and the proliferation of Irish, Scots and ethnic minority newspapers, is that the police in Essex refused to grant a licence extension to a pub to celebrate St George's Day, whereas it allowed an hour's extra drinking for St Patrick's Day. Here he really has touched a nerve. Reports of similar perjuries have proliferated in the year and a half since the devotion votes. To judge by the volume of letters on this matter to *The Sun*, *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*, there is no surer way to an Englishman's ire than by failing to grant his local a licence.

In the absence of any other great English cause to cling to, the right to drink is taken seriously. One national continuum Powell fastidiously does not mention in his poem is that the English have always been great drinkers and – not unconnected – great fighters, too. So it is unsurprising that the one place you might find St George's Day impinging on your consciousness is down the pub tonight, as more and landlords recognise the potential of the national day as an Olde English Bacchanal.

But the saint himself is unlikely to provide a compelling focus of English qualities. Perhaps it is time to think the unthinkable and simply change our patron saint. I would plead for the Venerable Bede, the geotite, Northern scholar and father of fetching Bible design – perfect for creative New Britain. St Francis would appeal to both the Green and the anti-war lobbies, and his mystical coosort St Clare might appeal to New Age feminists. St Augustine converted Britain to a new faith and so would surely get the empathy vote from Tony Blair.

But perhaps we should reflect a more secular society with a non-religious choice. The front-runner must surely be Shakespeare, the sublime and accessible poet of the English language, and still one of our best exports. Since *Shakespeare in Love*, even brazen Hollywood venerates him. As he died on St George's Day, we wouldn't even have to move the feast.

BY ANNE MCELVOY

Cry: God for Harry! England and

Saint Who?

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MUSIC

Guns and liberty

Sir: It is understandable that Europeans desire that we Americans follow your example, including, as your leader of 22 April suggested, a ban on the private possession of firearms.

However, you may as well suggest the Germans impose a ban on beer and reduce the autobahn speed to 100 kph. It simply isn't going to happen.

Yes, those who favour greater gun control are a majority, but it is a lazy majority, unwilling to part with a few dollars a year to fight the more generous cheque-writers of the pro-gun minority.

When a series of limited (by European standards) gun-control laws were very narrowly passed early on in the Clinton administration, we had a Democratic Congress and President, plus a number of retiring representatives who, having nothing to lose, voted according to their conscience for the first and only time. But that political balance died in 1994 after the gun lobby and their supporters successfully punished the Democrats in Congress who passed those laws.

We Americans understand that gun control is not on the cards; therefore, we have to look at solutions that move beyond the instinct for corrective legislation.
ANDREW HIRSCH
Bainbridge Island,
Washington,
USA

Sir: Colin Standfield's letter is incorrect (22 April). The men who wrote the American Bill of Rights knew the writings of Justice Sir William Blackstone, who's *Commentaries on the English Constitution* (1765) is still the definitive work.

In describing our rights, Blackstone wrote: "These rights consist, primarily, in the free enjoyment of personal security, of personal liberty and of private property. And lastly, to vindicate these rights, when actually violated and attacked, the subjects of England are entitled, in the first place, to the regular administration and free course of justice in the courts of law; next to the right of petitioning the King and Parliament for the redress of grievances; and lastly to the right of having and using arms for self preservation and defence."

The Second Amendment - "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed" - is based on the English constitutional guarantee. It is a personal guarantee to the people, to defend themselves against criminals, foreign invaders and domestic dictators.

These three reasons are as valid today as they were in 1791. Ethnic cleansing could not have happened in Kosovo if the people were armed.

In Britain, laws since 1920 have not removed our right to own handguns, for self defence or anything else. And what has resulted? Violent crime in Britain has steadily increased.

Disarming honest citizens is the action of dictators because the people no longer have the ability to remove their government. If the people are disarmed, only criminals will have guns.

STEVE DEVEREUX
Sendets, Pau,
France

A Serbian Hitler?

Sir: Ken Livingstone ("Why we are not wrong to compare Milosevic to Hitler", 21 April) declares: "It is simply not the case that the extermination of the Jews was the primary war aim of Hitler."

What a historian has called the "twisted path" to Auschwitz is a matter of great scholarly controversy, but Hitler did tell the Reichstag in January 1939 that the next world war would lead to the extermination of European Jewry. The Nazi leaders called their long-planned invasion of the USSR in June 1941 a "war of extermination" and seized the opportunity it offered to murder the Jews.



Bullfighting School No 5: The Salon de Torea, where students pair up and take turns in imitating the bull and practising with the cape

David Rose

World war and racial struggle were central features of National Socialist ideology from the start. Livingstone, however, denies the singularity of the Holocaust. It is not "a unique evil surpassing anything before or since in human history", but rather a routine massacre among the many the 20th century has seen.

In thus trivializing the Holocaust Livingstone exposes the logic of those who seek to justify the present war against Serbia by portraying Milosevic as Hitler and the atrocities his forces have committed against the Kosovars as genocide (as Clara Short did in her contemptible attack on opponents of the war as appeasers).

Defending the bloody mess created by Nato's air campaign apparently requires an overheated rhetoric which can no longer acknowledge the difference between what are undeniably wicked and barbarous measures unleashed by an arch-opportunist to drive people from their homes and the deliberate, ideologically rationalised, scientifically organised attempt to wipe an entire people from the earth.

The capacity to draw moral distinctions and make historical judgements must thus be counted among the many casualties of this futile and foolish war.
ALEX CALLINICOS
Professor of Politics
University of York

Sir: Ken Livingstone draws a number of parallels between Milosevic and Hitler. There is one other similarity which will, I suspect, become a closer parallel than we all hope.

Hitler was prepared to allow his country to be flattened by bombardment rather than die or surrender. It was not until ground troops (Russian in that case) got within a few hundred yards of his bunker that he finally accepted the inevitable.
BRIAN TAYLOR
Salisbury,
Wiltshire

Sir: They say air power cannot win the war, but on what authority?

In the Second World War Air Marshal Harris assured Churchill that Bomber Command could win the war on its own. He was wrong and we know why: for the first half of the war navigation was by chart and compass, operating by day was suicidal and on clear moonlit nights was nearly so. Not surprisingly, few bombs hit the target. Anyway, Bomber Command lacked the punch needed.

Later technology enabled small targets to be located and the huge fleets of British and American aircraft could wreak enormous destruction, mostly devoted to destroying cities, despite many voices raised to demand that the effective target was oil. Without oil no tank can move, no aircraft fly, no ship sail.

Times have changed. Targets can be pinpointed. Refineries and key installations are being hit. Serb forces in Kosovo are being cut off. Soon Nato aircraft will be able to range at will and at low level over Kosovo and nothing will be able to move except Nato land forces.

WALTER MORISON
Sometime F11 RAF
Bosham, West Sussex

Sir: Mohammed Arif (letter, 19 April) bemoans the fact that the United Nations has been sidelined

Sir: John Walsh declares that the "nation shudders" at radio cricket commentary being lost from the BBC to Talk Radio (Comment, 21 April). This particular part of the nation does no such thing: in fact it rejoices, with many others, that BBC Radio 4 on long wave won't be a desert of commentary on a minority-interest ball game for days on end.

VALERIE PASSMORE
London N16

Sir: "Centuries of obscure legal jargon abolished" (22 April).

in the Kosovo conflict. There is a very good reason for this: in a word, Srebrenica.

The record of the UN in the Bosnia conflict was one of appalling feebleness in the face of repeated (mainly Serbian) aggression and human rights violations. The UN established five "safe havens" (one of them Srebrenica) in Bosnia in which the safety of the inhabitants (mainly Bosnian Muslims) was "guaranteed". When push came to shove, however, the UN stood idly by as Serb forces overran Srebrenica. The result was around 10,000 Bosnian Muslim males gunned down in cold blood with the remaining population being expelled.

The international force that eventually enters Kosovo may have the figleaf of UN approval but must be in essence Nato-led, otherwise it will not have the support or trust of the returning Kosovo Albanian deportees. The credibility of the UN in former Yugoslavia is zero.
CHARLES KENNAUGH
Greasley, Wirral

Sir: Bruce Young (letter, 22 April) now concedes that the Croatian army was responsible for what was then the biggest single forced movement of people in Europe since the 1940s - the expulsion of 200,000 Krajina Serbs in 1995. But

he says it was not "state policy" and simply a "counter crime".

So who did order the expulsion if not the head of the Croatian state, Franjo Tudjman, a man who denies the Holocaust, fixes elections and wraps himself in the flag of the wartime Ustasha regime which murdered over 600,000 Serbs, Jews and Gypsies?

Rival nationalisms have fought in the Balkans for over 120 years. Each, at successive times, has been the victim and the jailer of others.

Great Powers have intervened, claiming to back the underdog, further poisoning relations between the Balkan peoples.

All the Balkan nationalists appeal to their own selective histories for legitimacy. This is the "infernal game". Academics and journalists should explain it and not join in.
KEVIN OVENDEN
London N16

Tories bounce back

Sir: Listening carefully to what Peter Lilley actually said in his RA Butler Memorial Lecture to the Coningsby Club, I experienced a considerable sense of relief ("If the Tories didn't exist, would we really need to invent them?", 21 April). It was a careful, reasoned and informed analysis of how the substance and the presentation of

Conservative policies on health, welfare and education need to be shaped if the party is to respond to the explicit aspirations of society as a whole, an institution the existence and importance of which loyal Conservatives are once again allowed to recognise.

My sense of relief followed from the fact that he was seeking to move the intra-party debate away from the hurrying of slogans and onto why the party has lost the confidence of the electorate and how to regain that confidence.

His arguments are in the effect that the market is necessary but not sufficient and that the electorate will not give its necessary confidence to a party for which the market is "all you know and all you need to know".

That, I am ready to believe, is the direction in which William Hague and Peter Lilley, as his deputy, are leading us, to regain the intellectual high ground which holds the key to the political middle ground.
HUMPHRY CRUM EWING
Reading, Berkshire

Gays in school

Sir: I am writing to express full support for James Hudson, the sixth-former who has been brave enough to speak out against homophobic comments and behaviour at Leeds Grammar School. His action is an example to his fellow students.

As a former pupil of the school I agree with James's comments that the school is able to offer much to its pupils academically, but the ethos and atmosphere have lagged far behind ("Gay pupil to sue school after attack", 21 April). The headmaster's description of homosexuality as "abhorrent" has no place coming from the head of an educational institution whose duty it is to provide a safe environment for his students, free from prejudice or hate of whatever form.
BEN SANDERSON
St Catherine's College
Oxford

Libraries' new leaf

Sir: I am the pin-striped twit that Terence Blacker heard arguing for library privatisation ("No, I'm not jealous of Roald Dahl", 20 April).

Actually, I'm far too cool to wear pin-stripes and think the library service is so awful that you couldn't privatise it anyway.

Still, if Blacker is right that spending on new books has dropped, that three-quarters of authorities have cut opening hours and that half of them have closed libraries, it is obvious that we need to get new money into the system.

There is no point in looking to the Government. We need to bring in new money from people who appreciate libraries and would willingly pay to use their services. It means developing libraries as a fresh and dynamic part of the leisure industry. It means getting libraries out of those run-down council buildings and closer to their users through innovative outreach methods. It means inviting new providers to run libraries in new ways, instead of closing them.

With fresh sources of funds from a wider base of users, libraries could then afford to supply the high standard of free public information and recreation to which they aspire.
Dr EAMONN BUTLER
Director
The Adam Smith Institute
London SW1

Checks on locums

Sir: When women call us to complain about obstetric care, one of the first questions we ask is: "Was the doctor a locum?" ("NHS fails to check locums", 21 April).

In August 1997 the NHS executive produced a code of practice for employment of locums, after a series of scandals. It was too little too late. Consumers wanted locums to carry a log book of all their past jobs; the code only requires them to give details of their most recent employer.

We still receive complaints of incompetent and ill-advised forceps and vacuum deliveries and other interventions. The women are left badly traumatised. Their partners are devastated by guilt because they feel they should have prevented what happened, although it was impossible for them to do so.

Higher qualifications in obstetrics are no guarantee that obstetricians have reasonable judgement, or that they have respectful attitudes to women.
BEVERLEY A BEECH
Hon Chair
Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services
Iver, Buckinghamshire

Right old junk

Sir: The video recorder pictured in your "Where are they now?" piece about failed technologies (21 April) is not a Betamax machine, but the Philips/Magnum video cassette technology, boasting clunky square cassettes, which predates Betamax by perhaps five years.

Students of the technological trash-can of history may also recall the Philips "Video 2000" technology, which boasted double-sided cassettes, longer playing times, and allegedly superior picture and sound. This system was available in the Betamax era, but was a catastrophic failure. A keen techno-junk shopper, I haven't seen a single Video 2000 machine since its disappearance in the early Eighties.

What happened to Elcaset, the quarter-inch "hi-fi" audio cassette format of the late Seventies?
JUSTIN KEERY
IT Director
Cerbernet Ltd
WC2

Sir: Your feature on "Who invented that?" put the wrong bosom in Howard Hughes's canfield bra. He designed it for Jane Russell, not Jayne Mansfield; indeed Ms Mansfield would have hardly needed one in 1948, whereas Ms Russell undoubtedly did.
DAVID COE
Chatham, Kent

IN BRIEF

Splendid. But why does it take two Latin words ("claim form") to replace one clear English one ("writ") that has served for a millennium at the heart of the English legal system?
JULIAN MUNBY
Oxford

Sir: In response to your feature on Sonia Friedman and Dominic Drumgoole ("The West End's new beginning", 21

April) we would like to point out a small inaccuracy - the assertion that the opening date for our rebuilt Sloane Square home remains "worryingly uncertain". In fact, we are fully on course for opening in the autumn and all interested parties should look out in early September for the launch of our first season back in SW3.
VIKKI HEYWOOD
Executive Director
IAN RICKSON
Artistic Director
Royal Court Theatre
London WC2

All hail King Tony! Our vengeful man of peace

TODAY WE bring you another extract from the excitingly rediscovered Shakespearean saga, *The History of King Tony or New Labour's Lost Love*. In yesterday's episode we saw how the youthful King Tony put off his dreams of peace in Northern Ireland to embrace a warrior's role in Serbia. Today we shall see how his war progresses...

A royal council chamber, where workmen are installing telephones, decking the walls with maps and putting black-out over the windows. Enter King Tony, accompanied by Duke Prescott, George, Duke of Robertson, and various military men.

King Tony: From here we shall conduct the war ourselves!

This little room, this nest of phones and maps. Shall be the centre of the whole campaign! This is the very room which great Churchill used to send out orders in the last world war. For I, like him, shall all the hours control Which send out orders to our far-flung men!

Prescott: to Robertson Has he been in this state for very long?

Robertson: Softly, to Prescott Oh, ever since the war began last week

Has he put on the noble warrior look, Strutting around this military centre, Putting flags on maps, and model rockets. And making little noises to himself, such sounds as "Bang!" and "Crash" and "Bombs Away!" And then he says...

King Tony: This war shall never cease Until King Siobodan has given in And seen the error of his evil ways!

Robertson: And after that he strikes another pose, That pose we know so well, with moistening eyes.

His hand curled up as if imploring us To pat his little head and stroke his locks...

Prescott: I know it well.

Robertson: And says to us this time...

King Tony: This is a just and caring war we wage! A war to make men free and not be slaves,

A loving war, a war that says "We care" And not a war for gain or territory!

A New Age war, perhaps. Organic war.



MILES KINGTON

This is a just and caring war we wage! A loving war, a war that says "We care", a New Age war, perhaps. Organic war...

That would not harm a single person's hair. Or if a bomb should fall upon their head, Would leave them there holistically dead!

Prescott: How strange to see the man of peace stand there

And preach the cause of spreading war abroad!

Is this a thing that comes with power, you think?

Robertson: This is a thing I cannot understand.

Inside King Tony dwell two different men.

One is a vengeful, fighting man of peace.

The other, a loving, caring warrior chief.

Now riddle me that one, Prescott, if you can!

Before Duke Prescott can make answer, King Tony turns to him.

King Tony: Good Prescott, welcome to our HQ base.

What think you of our little set-up here?

Prescott: It's very nice.

King Tony: "It's very nice", he says!

Where is the pride and passion in your voice?

Oh, Prescott, it is heaven in this room

Where I, at last, can be in real charge

And bomb my enemies, not humour them.

Now, Prescott, I shall need your help today.

Once weekly, as you know, I meet my people

And let them ask such questions as they wish.

"King's Question Time" it's called.

But for today I am too busy with the war to go

And listen to my subjects' stupid plights.

I trust thee well. Do thou go in my stead

And many rewards will fall upon your head.

Prescott: I go at once, my Lord. I only hope

That I shall do it half as well as thee.

Enter Robertson and Prescott. Enter Martin Bell, in a white suit. King Tony starts at the sight.

King Tony: Avaunt, thou man of peace, avaunt my sight!

I have a just and caring war to fight!

Bell: No war is ever just, and no one gains.

Only he prospers who from war refrains.

The loser's left with bitter, vain regret;

The winner's left unharmed, but deep in debt.

King Tony: Get out, you moaning Minnie, now get out!

Bell: The weakest men are they who loudest shout.

At a signal, Martin Bell is summarily ejected, doing all sorts of damage to his suit, leaving King Tony looking angry but pensive.

(More of this anon.)

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1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
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Slowly but surely we are nearing a ground war

IS THIS "mission creep"? The famous phrase from the Vietnam war has come back to haunt the leaders of the post-Vietnam generation. Are we witnessing a gradual, irresistible extension of the war aims in the Balkans, the kind of ratchet mechanism that drew the US into a massive land war which no one intended? Or is it bluff? Is Mr Blair's incremental but definite tightening of the terms of engagement in Kosovo designed to frighten Slobodan Milosevic into suing for peace? Or - a third possibility - is a ground war what Tony Blair intended all along, but could not admit to because the Nato partners would not wear it?

There is no doubt that, as Thomas Sutcliffe, our parliamentary observer, put it this week, the Government is engaged in a game of Grandmother's footsteps. Every time Grandmother turns around, the prospect of ground troops being deployed against the Serbian army seems to have crept closer, and yet nobody will admit to having moved.

But moved they have. Mr Blair began the war by promising that "there is no question of Nato ground forces being sent in unless it is to police an agreed political settlement". Three days later, he said that forces could go in with the refugees in order to "lead them back into their homes in Kosovo". On Monday this week, the wording became more active: "There will be an international military force that will go in to secure the land for the people to whom it belongs." And in the Commons on Wednesday he said: "The difficulties of a land force invasion of Kosovo against an undegraded Serb military machine are formidable." So, while Nato troops will not fight their way into Kosovo, they may yet drive in against a degraded military machine.

Whatever the reasons for this slow, much-denied shift in British, American and - by next week probably - Nato policy, it is to be welcomed. The deployment of ground forces should have been planned and threatened a year ago, but it is none the less essential now.

However, our leaders should be taking Britain and its Nato allies into this thing without creeping around the point. Ambiguity is hardly the right way to mobilise public opinion. Nor should the peoples of Nato countries be soft-soaped about the consequences of setting up a protectorate in Kosovo against Serbia's will. Suggestions from Nato that troops will be able to drive into Kosovo without opposition from a bombed-out and demoralised Serb army are wishful thinking.

Milosevic, in his propaganda counter-strike yesterday, said: "When our soldiers are dying, they know why they are dying. They are dying for their homeland, for their fatherland. And for what? Your soldiers die, 5,000 miles from home?" Well, they will be dying to put an end

to "ethnic cleansing", for a democratic, peaceful Europe.

But to defeat Serbs fighting for their fatherland will require leadership. Fighting a war by multinational committee, which is what Nato is, requiring a consensus among 19 nations, demands tact and diplomacy. But, just as Mr Blair has insisted that Milosevic does not have a veto on Nato action, nor should Greece. The Greeks may be Nato's weakest link, sympathetic to the cause of their traditional ally, orthodox Christian Serbia, but they will not leave Nato. Fortunately, Milosevic has so far acted in such a way as to keep Nato together, while Russia is unwilling to move beyond its stance of bellicose neutrality.

Nato's leaders must give a lead to their peoples this weekend. Public opinion is less of a constraint on Mr Blair than on any of his fellow leaders, and he is under more of an obligation to come clean. He should prepare us for a ground war not by stealth, but by saying clearly that British lives will have to be risked at some time soon. And he should come to Parliament and win a vote for it.

The political motives of Mr Woodhead's foes

IT SEEMED like a good story at the time, but we cannot help but wonder whether we should have started the whole business. In February, our education editor reported that Chris Woodhead, guardian of school standards and bugbear-in-chief of the teachers, had made some interesting comments to trainee teachers in Exeter. The "messes" involved in relationships between teachers and pupils over the age of consent, he said, could be "educative".

This was provocative but, on balance, Mr Woodhead was right. Such relationships should be discouraged, forcefully. There should be a strong presumption that any teacher doing such a thing will lose their job. But it should not be absolute. Some 18-year-olds are unusually mature, and some 21-year-olds can do unwise things without being bad

teachers. A teacher should not be "automatically drummed out of the profession", as Mr Woodhead said.

Since then, his personal interest in the issue has been exhaustively laid bare. There is no evidence that his affair with a former pupil began while he was her teacher, although his ex-wife and some former colleagues are convinced that it did.

The fact that our report came while a Bill is going through Parliament to criminalise such liaisons should have drawn attention to a bad law. Instead it was used as an excuse by the teachers' unions to try to hound a political enemy out of office. The conduct of David Hart of the head-teachers' union has been reprehensible. Yesterday he called for the Director of Public Prosecutions to waste taxpayers' money in investigating the charges. He should be concentrating on how to spend taxpayers' money on raising school standards. If he disagrees with Mr Woodhead on how to do that, and has a constructive alternative policy, he might deserve to be taken seriously.



If you really want to understand this war, listen to Parliament

SEND IN the ground troops! Yes, but the US Congress will want their say. And what of Mr Schröder's coalition partners in Germany and the Assembly in France? Like Mr Clinton, the German and French leaders cannot act alone. Apparently only Tony Blair, with his docile House of Commons, can do what he wants. While they have to go through a series of domestic hoops, the other political leaders in Nato are said to be casting an envious eye on Mr Blair's commanding situation back at home.

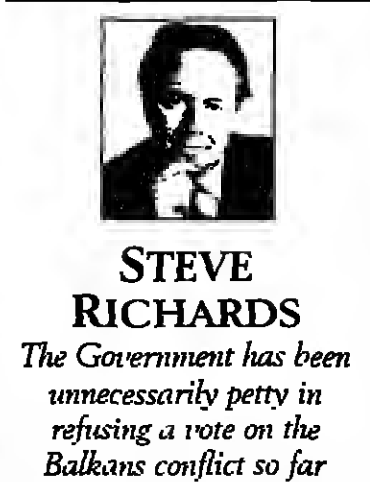
Their envy is misplaced. Of course a landslide majority makes Blair an extremely powerful Prime Minister in any situation. Almost certainly he will not lose a vote in the Commons on a single issue in this parliament. Since the election, because of the decisive result, the Commons has often had a desultory air. But the war has made it less marginal. The debates have been outstanding; ministers have been scrutinised thoroughly when they have arrived to make their evasive statements. What is more, I believe the Government will be forced to hold a vote before it commits ground troops to the Balkans.

Far from being on the periphery during the conflict, the Commons has been the best vantage point to monitor the dramatic shifts in position that have taken place since the air strikes began. The changing objectives of the war are laid out more concisely each day in Hansard than anywhere else. Without going through all of them, let us take the starting-point of Mr Blair's statement to the Commons on 23 March, the day before the air

strikes began. Then he made it clear that the war aim was to "avert what would otherwise be a humanitarian disaster in Kosovo" and to secure the imposition of terms of the Rambouillet agreement.

Now, partly because the human disaster has been hastened rather than averted, the aim has changed. Robin Cook argued in his speech in the full day's debate on Monday that the objective now was to "seek through our military action, the limited but nevertheless essential task of enabling those dispossessed from Kosovo to return to their homes under international protection". He warned also that: "We will pursue those guilty of war crimes in Kosovo", which raises the possibility of Milosevic being tried by the International War Crimes Tribunal rather than being a negotiating partner at the end of the war. As the Foreign Affairs Committee, Donald Anderson observed in the same debate: "We have moved on from Rambouillet, which is dead in many respects."

The change in tactics as outlined to MPs has been even more dramatic. In Mr Blair's statement on 23 March he ruled out the use of ground troops. William Hague was even more emphatic. "Although we support the use of ground troops to implement a diplomatic settlement, we shall not support their use to fight for a settlement," Mr Hague declared. He asked Mr Blair to "confirm that these strikes are not a prelude to a ground war". Mr Blair confirmed that this was the case. By Prime Minister's Ques-



STEVE RICHARDS
The Government has been unnecessarily petty in refusing a vote on the Balkans conflict so far

tion Time on Wednesday, the U-turn was being prepared. He suggested that sending in troops against an "undegraded" Serbian military machine posed "formidable difficulties", but insisted that "Milosevic does not have a veto on Nato action".

Tony Benn would argue that these exchanges illustrate that the Commons is no more than a giant press conference, eliciting little pieces of information here and there. I believe he is wrong. Ministers are highly alert to the mood of Labour MPs. One of the reasons Downing Street is singling Clare Short out for praise at every opportunity is her work behind the scenes in keeping some Labour doubters on board. For some she is a barometer figure, who resigned from the front bench over the Gulf war but is passionately committed now.

Nor can Conservative support be taken for granted. In war, bipartisan support matters. The last thing the Government will want is for the conflict to turn into a domestic political contest, and not just because Milosevic would make the most of such opposition. It would heighten the domestic stakes as well. If events started to go wrong, a party opposed to the strategy would start to benefit.

For now, the Conservative front bench is tied in to the changing, unpredictable direction of the war. It is much more likely that the Tory leadership will continue to back the Government even if it means that they too have to announce a U-turn on ground troops as spectacular as the Government's. But this cannot be taken for granted. I cannot believe I am writing this, but Michael Howard, their foreign affairs spokesman, has made a series of excellent, searching speeches in the Commons, implying far from unreserved support.

Which is one of the reasons why the Government should hold a vote before committing ground troops. Apart from the relatively trivial matter of exposing the divisions on the Conservative benches, it would force the Shadow Cabinet to declare its hand in a clear-cut way. In spite of such a risk for them, several shadow cabinet members have spoken privately of the need for a vote. So, too, have the Liberal Democrats who have been most vociferous in their support for ground troops from the beginning. Their foreign affairs spokesman, Menzies Campbell, agreed in the Commons debate with

the unlikely alliance of Tony Benn and Douglas Hogg about this, if nothing else. Campbell declared that: "If we are to ask our young men and women to risk their lives in the furtherance of political objectives, surely they ought to know that they have the endorsement of the House of Commons".

The Government was being unnecessarily petty to refuse a vote on the conflict so far. The small minority who would have voted against would hardly have provided Milosevic with a defining propaganda coup. It would be foolish to ignore the widespread calls for a vote before sending in ground troops.

And then what? Reflecting the uncertain, messy course of the war, the mood of the Commons is sceptical, if not overwhelmingly supportive. So far, what has gone wrong has related to lack of strategic clarity and a failure to secure a swift outcome. If British lives are lost and the endgame remains as unclear as it appears to be now, the mood will darken. What is more likely is that a victory of sorts will be achieved, but the policing of the peace will be as complex and as financially draining as the war.

In either scenario, the Labour MPs expressing support but still raising probing questions will place greater emphasis on the questioning. The Conservatives could withdraw their support altogether. And - Messrs Clinton, Schröder, Jospin, withdraw your envy now - that would matter.

The writer is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Success is the only exit strategy I am prepared to consider."
Tony Blair,
Prime Minister

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Ask yourself if you are happy, and you cease to be so."
John Stuart Mill,
English philosopher

KOSOVO AND BALKAN CRISIS PLEASE ACT NOW

It's a month since the conflict in Kosovo escalated and an ever growing number of refugees desperately need emergency assistance, food, shelter and clothing simply to survive.

It's a crisis of horrendous proportions and Y Care, in conjunction with church organisations, is helping to relieve the suffering through an emergency feeding and assistance programme to provide nutrition, shelter and clothing to refugees in Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and other parts of FR Yugoslavia.

Please help us help these desperate people survive the coming weeks and months.

Please help by sending whatever you can today.

Thank you.

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UNFORTUNATELY, THE fear of casualties in any ground action has all this while deterred the Nato members, especially the Americans, from sending their forces into Kosovo. This has clearly been a flawed policy, contributing to the tragedy suffered by the Kosovars. Fortunately, in the recent days, there is a realisation that a rapid ground intervention by Nato, even at this late stage, can save Kosovo's Muslim Albanians from total annihilation.

Any further delay in dispatching the proposed military force into Kosovo, in accordance with what the British Prime Minister has hinted at, could prove fatal. Dawn, Pakistan.

NATO'S DECISION, which borders on the bizarre, to proceed with its 50th anniversary celebration is a metaphor for the war that Nato began imprudently, waging peculiarly and is losing. The celebration, like

the war, will proceed pretty much according to plan because there is no plan other than to pretend that things are going as planned. Houston Chronicle, US

ALTHOUGH NATO leaders still deny it, the alliance seems to be inching closer to sending troops into Kosovo. Signs of the shifting attitude are evident in both its words and its actions. Globe and Mail, Canada

Nato leaders are still clearly reluctant to take part in a full-scale invasion of Kosovo. They also acknowledge that it may be impossible to bend Mr Milosevic completely to Nato demands with air power alone. But that leaves a middle option. Nato could continue to bomb for another several weeks until Yugoslav forces were weakened, and then move in on the ground against a battered and retreating opposition. Globe and Mail, Canada

WOULD YOU support an invasion of a state that will cause casualties among our armed forces and the civilians of the invaded country, carrying the risk of the conflict spreading and developing into a major conflict in Europe, if not a world war? It has a chance that allegedly persecuted Kosovo Albanians will be able to return to their historically adopted homeland, provided there is a costly policing of that region. Russia Today

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Comment on the prospect of sending
Nato ground forces into Kosovo

PANDORA

HAPPY ST GEORGE'S Day. It should prove so for Liberty, a two-year-old Limousin heifer. Bound for a positively final appearance at a south Devon slaughterhouse, the cow made a bold dash for freedom. As a handler led her towards the abattoir where she was scheduled to appear on the wrong end of a bolt, Liberty legged it through the town of Kingsbridge, crossed a driveway and invaded a primary school playground. There she body-swerved slaughterhouse staff, townspeople and two sharpshooters for more than an hour. As a police helicopter circled above, a local farmer drove Liberty into a nearby field where she was finally recaptured. Animal Concern, sensing a new twist to last year's hot pursuit of the Tamworth Two, this week raised £1,000 to send Liberty (close relative pictured) to the greener pastures of Hillside Animal Sanctuary in Norwich. There she'll live out her days with 400 other lucky creatures. We English adore dumb animals – and Liberty.

OH, AND what could be more English than... hypocrisy? Coincidentally, the *News of the World*, the nation's favourite Sunday tabloid, has long delighted in titillating its readers under the guise of sharing their moral outrage at the smutty exploits it describes in such loving detail.

Last week the Murdoch rag exposed John Mullis, the 66-year-old multimillionaire chairman of the printers Mullis Morgan, as sharing a "love-nest" with a bisexual 39-year-old Puerto Rican femme enchantingly named Scheherazade.

The intimate relationship between Mullis and his "bondage-loving" babe echoes another cosy set-up: Mullis Morgan just happens to be print suppliers to *News International* – who publish *News of the World*.

23 APRIL is also the day, 383 years ago, that Shakespeare died. Tragically, his heritage may not be as safe as bardolators might wish. Overheard in the BBC shop near Broadcasting House – Customer: "Do you have the video of *Measure for Measure*?" Assistant: "Is that in the DIY section?"

THE GERMAN ad agency Springer & Jacoby opens its international office in London's Clerkenwell today. To prove that they're going to behave properly with the other children, the Teutonic raiders plan a launch party tonight at the Naval & Military Club. On the cusp of the 21st century, tolerance and humour remain core elements of Englishness.

FURTHER ALONG from the

agency's offices in St John Street, those who love England but hate jingoism can celebrate the renaissance of English cuisine at St Johns. Its menu today will include St George's mushrooms, and braised squirrel with dried cepes and wild garlic. That's innovative – but where does innovation become invention? Ask Neil Kinnoch: a hapless *Sunday Times* hack mistook a joke Kinnoch told him for the truth, but let's nail this foodie fib right now. Peter Mandelson never mistook mushy peas for glacamole in a northern chip shop. (Source: *Mandelson, the Biography* by Donald Macintyre, published this week by HarperCollins.)

TORY TROPHY boy Michael Portillo on his anguished adolescence: "Across the lower facial area a range of high-peaked pustules mapped in angry red... while I was combing my hair my scalp would suddenly exude enough oil to grease a piston." Modesty is as English as the desire to tweak the noses of our supposed betters. But let's not overdo the self-deprecation, eh?

DARK SIDES – we all have one. For the English, it may lurk in the kitchen. According to *Procter & Gamble News*, 55 per cent of American households have a dishwasher, as do 35 per cent of Continental Europeans. But on these shores the numbers drop to an unhygienic 20 per cent.

WHODATHUNKIT? ONE in five conversations lasting 10 minutes or more will involve a lie, according to *Prospect*. If one of the parties attended university, it will be one in three.

CHEAP DATE, Kira Jolliffe's doty anti-fashion magazine, is to launch in New York. Jolliffe, who persuades stellar friends such as Sophie Dahl to model cheap-but-chic looks for the title, has recruited Marion Richards (son of Rolling Stone Keith) for this innovative English export. It's only frock'n'roll... but we like it.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk



We got smashed with Monet



PHILIP HENSHER

There's something frictionless about Monet: not a painter one can have an argument with

opening all night tonight to let the hordes in. Monet at dawn. It might be fun."

"At least it'll be quiet," Alberto said decisively.

It wasn't. A queue, 200 strong and appallingly bright-eyed was standing patiently on Piccadilly as if they'd never imagined anything more thrilling. In the temporary café erected in the courtyard of the

Academy, the masses squatted round cups of coffee and their bagged-up catalogues. The scene looked rather like a retreating Turkish army, as painted by Lady Butler, cheerful but bedraggled. They had the air of having done something uncomfortable but exciting.

On the way, we had speculated that it would be full of West End drunks; looking around, it was appallingly apparent that the only truly wrecked people there were the two of us. Everyone else looked as if they had gone to bed at eight to be in a good state to take it all in.

Inside, it was more crowded than could be imagined. Somewhere, over the heads of the small-hours art-lovers, a glow of colour could be dimly discerned. A glow of blue-green must be one of the views of the garden at Giverny; a throbbing grey was probably one of the London paintings. Nothing much could be seen, unless you were prepared to stand and shove. I settled for a nice sit down.

Average rustling mutter filled the room, people taking care to lower their voices even at this hour. Occasional overheard comments, as

people drifted past, were no more obviously peculiar than the sort of thing you usually overhear in galleries; half-confident comments about paint texture, over-confident assertions about Cezanne's influence, conversations about a holiday outing to Giverny. A boy asked his girl, rather self-consciously, if she had a split, but apart from that it could have been 3.30 in the afternoon, rather than the morning.

Alberto wandered over. "I can't see a thing," he said. "Why Monet, do you think? There are plenty of great painters," he said. "Would it be as full if it was Titian?"

It was difficult even to think what to say. Maybe it is a sign of an increased interest in the visual arts, an increasingly sophisticated and intelligent population. I wonder.

There's something frictionless about Monet; he is not a painter, like Titian or Velazquez, one can have an argument with. There are few meanings in his paintings, but just an innocent absorption in the world.

Splendid as it is that many people, encouraged by the hype, have crossed an invisible barrier and gone into an art gallery, it would be

idle to claim that they will now find it easier to go and look at Bronzino. Monet is great, but he got rid of too much, and it will not do to think that his mass popularity is going to translate readily into a general enthusiasm for painting in general.

Personally, the more I look at Monet the weirder he seems, and not just because I was a bit far gone on Saturday night. I think, in another hundred years, people will discuss our obsession with him in the same way we now talk about the 18th century's mania for Guido Reni. Of course, he is an interesting painter. But we mustn't make the mistake of thinking that Monet is what painting means.

"Well, I'm glad I did that," Alberto said as we headed out on to Piccadilly. "I suppose."

"Something to tell the grandchildren about, anyway," I said.

"Are you planning to have grandchildren?"

"Not really," I said. "Can we go to Trade and have a bit of a dance now?"

"Do you know," he said. "I was really starting to think you'd never ask."

Here's a deal that Milosevic just might be forced to take



DAVID OWEN

UN trusteeship excludes partition of Kosovo but does not prejudice the question of independence

THE CONTINUED credibility of Nato is a fundamental Western interest. Therefore, this war against Serbia cannot be allowed to weaken Nato. That means Nato's wholly legitimate war aims have to be secured before the bombing ceases. These essentially are, stripped of references to Nato and Rambouillet, that all Serbian armed forces, paramilitaries and armed policemen must be withdrawn from Kosovo and all refugees, whether of Albanian or Serbian origin, must be free to return to their homes in Kosovo, protected by an effective armed international force.

In the midst of war, criticism has to be muted. No supporter of Nato wants to undermine its armed forces or bring censure to those who oppose it. Nevertheless, it is necessary for Nato to admit to itself that it was a mistake not to build up large conventional forces around Serbia, demonstrating to President Milosevic that Nato was ready, if necessary, to invade Kosovo.

Had such a build-up been started before and during the Rambouillet negotiations, then President Milosevic would have negotiated more seriously and very likely neither Nato bombs nor missiles would have been used. It was for political reasons that ground forces were not deployed, but public opinion has hardened in the US as well as in Europe over the need to reinforce air attacks with conventional forces.

Nato should respond immediately to the Serbs having put troops into the small UN area on Prevlaka between the Bay of Kotar and Croatia, by deploying marines on ships in the Adriatic. Nato should also be openly putting airborne forces on alert, and moving tanks and heavy equipment, such as bridge materials, close to Serbia.

Unfortunately, given what has happened politically in Macedonia as

undertaken by a combination of the UN Secretary General and the Russian Federation. President Yeltsin, though his envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin, has an opportunity to play an influential role in the G8. Individual Nato countries should not take peace initiatives; instead that should be left to the five Nato members in the Contact Group to negotiate directly with Russia and to liaise with the UN.

President Milosevic should be offered a largely non-negotiable alternative to Nato invasion. But he, Russia and the UN should be under no illusion that once any Nato ground attack commences, all peace offers are off the table.

The basis for a UN-Russian-led peace settlement should be that under the UN Charter trusteeship provisions Kosovo would be declared a Strategic Trust Territory where all UN administration would come under the Security Council.

The sizeable international military implementation force necessary to ensure the basic war aims would be authorised by the Security Council to act with full authority under chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Whether the military force should be under UN command or military authority be vested by the Security Council in the OSCE (Organisation for European Security and Co-operation) will depend on the negotiating process. It is unlikely that Russia would accept the type of military deployment in Bosnia since Nato is in all essentials in control, but if they did, so much the better.

Whether the force were under the UN or the OSCE, a sizeable element would have to come from Nato, and from Russia and other Nato European countries.

The virtue of trusteeship is that it excludes partition of Kosovo but it does not prejudice the question of



Nato ground troops training in Macedonia Carlo Ferraro

independence. It is a simple mechanism for transferring authority to the UN and allowing for a military protectorate. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has to take the decision to transfer sovereignty over Kosovo to the UN. Yet, the UN is the only international organisation that the Serbs still respect. They must know that no change in the UN trusteeship could occur without the agreement of the Security Council.

In that way, the Serbs could feel that the future of Kosovo was left open, and that they had not succumbed to Nato control or lost out to the KLA.

If the OSCE is to be involved, then the FR Yugoslavia should be readmitted. The people of Kosovo under UN trusteeship would, of course, be granted the maximum possible degree of self-government with full protection for minorities and respect for human rights, and religious sites would be protected, with open access to all from within and outside Kosovo.

A Balkan Conference would follow UN trusteeship, the return of

refugees to Kosovo and the establishment of a stable administration. At that conference, to which the FR Yugoslavia would be invited, a global solution to all outstanding problems would be on the table. The EU could play a significant economic and political role, mapping out a future in which all Balkan states who wished to do so could eventually become full members of the EU.

President Milosevic would be told that if he rejects a UN-Russian brokered diplomatic offer, agreed with Nato, then, after a military invasion in which many brave Nato soldiers will have lost their lives, not only will he lose all influence on Kosovo's future, but Nato will support Montenegro's President Milo Djukanovic, and that new oil and other sanctions will be applied to Serbia. These sanctions, he should be told, will not be lifted until those leaders under arrest order from the War Crimes Tribunal are delivered to The Hague.

Lord Owen was the EU representative for Yugoslavia, 1991-1995

THE INDEPENDENT

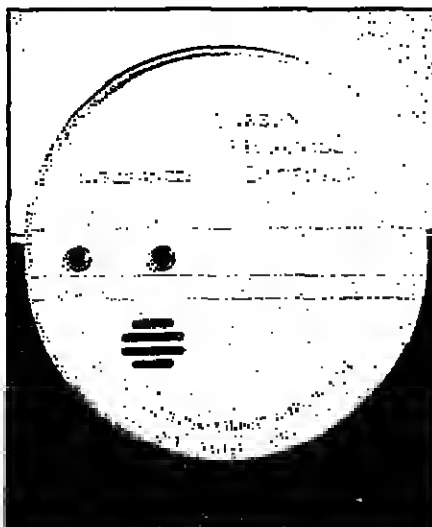
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A challenge for St George's Day

IDENTITY POLITICS are dynamite. We should not need the horror of the Balkans to remind us of that.

Unless we tread carefully, it is only too easy to get blown up by them. No doubt this is why so many sensible people prefer to give the whole issue the widest of wide berths.

But this is no longer possible. There is a battle on for Britain, and for England, and we must make sure that we win it. Defeat would not bring us Balkan-style war, but it would make life on our small island much more unpleasant. The battle lines are becoming daily more clear. It is time to engage.

Above all it is time for England to engage, for we are Chesterton's "people of England" that never have spoken yet. The English have been the silent and uninvited guests at the devolutionary feast. Scotland has a parliament, Wales an assembly, while England gets only some regional quangos. A striking feature of the devolution legislation has been its total neglect of the union (and English) dimension.

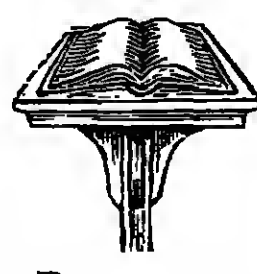
Scottish over-representation

at Westminster is to be reduced, but Scotland retains a secretary of state as well as acquiring a parliament, while England has neither; the West Lothian question (why should Scottish MPs vote on English matters when English MPs can't vote on Scottish ones?) remains unanswered; and the public-spending formula continues to be over-generous to Scotland. Whatever the devolution settlement was, it was clearly not a settlement. And it leaves the English Question unresolved.

This is the question of where England fits into the new union that is now being created, and what kind of England will make its distinctive contribution to this union. If it's a surly English nationalism, then the new union state will be in trouble from the start. The chances of creating what Gladstone a century ago called "a partnership of four nations" will be bleak. Instead it will soon become a bad tempered failure.

But if England puts its inevitable dominance (with 85 per cent of the UK population and 529 out of 669 MPs) to imaginative use in the service of the

new union, then the prospects are transformed. We have to admit that the English never really got the hang of the old union. They thought that Britain was just England by another name. On his best-selling travels, the American writer Bill Bryson came upon the grave of Asquith in an Oxfordshire churchyard and was surprised that the headstone described this



PODIUM

TONY WRIGHT
From a speech by the Labour MP to a Fabian Society conference at Ruskin College, Oxford

new union, then the prospects are transformed.

We have to admit that the English never really got the hang of the old union. They thought that Britain was just England by another name. On his best-selling travels, the American writer Bill Bryson came upon the grave of Asquith in an Oxfordshire churchyard and was surprised that the headstone described this

British figure at the height of empire as Prime Minister of England. Bagehot's famous book of the 1860s was called *The English Constitution*. Britain has been a contrivance; England an identity.

But what kind of identity? It's difficult not to be contentious here. I am irredeemably English. There is nothing I can do about it. In Orwell's words, sweet puddings and red pillar-boxes have entered my soul. But I am also aware that I like one kind of Englishness as much as I dislike another kind. My England is about quiet patriotism and undemonstrative decency. It's the sort that says "still, mustn't grumble", trades in gentle irony, knows that it takes all sorts, believes in fair play, distrusts fundamentalists and tries to make things work. This is the kind of Englishness that makes living in England so agreeable.

There is another kind, however much less appealing. This Englishness always believes somebody (usually foreign) is dithering them. It's smug, arrogant and excluding. Its language is that of the "home counties" and the "provinces".

Why does this matter now? Because devolution has given this kind of unlovely Englishness a new lease of life. English nationalism joins hands with the separatists in wanting the new union to fail. Their demand for the chimera of an English parliament is the refusal of a certain kind of (southern) Englishness to recognise the democratic claims of what Orwell called "the England that is only just beneath the surface".

It is this other England that now has to speak. When it does, it will attend sensibly to the need to represent England in the new union. This may mean procedural changes at Westminster; it will certainly mean radical decentralisation within England. But there need be no uniformity. The evolving union is messy and lopsided – and all the better for it.

Living with anomalies and preferring common sense to logical abstractions is said to be what the political genius of the English is all about. In the words of Burke, the Irish father of English conservatism, "it is in the nature of all greatness not to be exact."

Liz Tilberis

LIZ TILBERIS was a former editor of British *Vogue* and for the past five years editor-in-chief of *Harper's Bazaar* in New York, one of the world's glossiest glossy magazines. She was an insider – at the centre of the fashion world and a close friend of the Clintons and of Diana, Princess of Wales.

She was born Elizabeth Kelly, the daughter of an eye surgeon from Bath. Her path to the editorship of two of the world's most influential fashion magazines was forged through single-minded determination: she fought for everything she achieved. Always a rebel, at Malvern Girls' College she refused to be confirmed, stating, "I don't believe in God." At Leicester Polytechnic, where she was a fashion student, she was expelled for entertaining a man in her room.

Determined, however, to study fashion, she obtained an introduction to the Jacob Kramer Art College in Leeds. The first person to look through her portfolio was Andrew Tilberis, an art tutor. Unimpressed, he dismissed her work as the dilapidated output of a posh boarding school. He noted the Leicester report: "We don't have hookers here," he said. Liz, though, was determined to overwhelm him with her enthusiasm for fashion: why she loved it, why it was important, and why she needed the chance to study. Andrew recalled that it was this speech – and her legs – which decided him in her favour.

At that time, 1967, *Vogue* was the leading fashion magazine in Britain. While still a student Liz entered the *Vogue* talent contest, which entailed writing three essays. She was the runner-up and was accepted by *Vogue* as an intern, on £25 a week. She later said of her apprenticeship:

I began by picking up dress pins at photo sessions, making tea, sweeping up, and then I moved on to writing. I made myself useful, generally, slowly, very slowly working my way up. I succeeded by knowing the right answers but when to keep my mouth shut, when to smile and how to do really good ironing. I also learned everything there was to know about fabrics. It was invaluable experience.

The then editor-in-chief and doyenne of *Vogue*, Beatrix Miller, remembered her first impressions of Tilberis: "It was her niceness, enthusiasm and eagerness, even over making coffee; and her boundless energy. Even though she was very young she had high aspirations."

Tilberis's first substantive appointment with *Vogue* was as fashion assistant, in 1970. Over the next decade and a half she learnt how to nurture the photographers' creative flair and to make models feel great.

In June 1987, after almost 20 years at the magazine, she was offered a hugely well-paid job in New York as part of Ralph Lauren's design team, which she accepted. She sold her house and packed her possessions. Two days after handing in her notice she was called into the office of Anna Wintour – then editor and about to leave for New York – and offered the editorship of *Vogue*.

Under Tilberis *Vogue* won numerous awards and prestigious front-row seats at the collections world-wide. Its circulation rose to a healthy 233,000. Her approach was direct but not dictatorial. "My staff are respectful rather than frightened. I would rather be criticised than complimented. I'm Machiavellian rather than malicious."

Those who worked with her soon realised that her constant self-deprecation was a clever camouflage. It hid a very tough, dedicated

ambitious lady, but no harridan. She was funny and courageous, and her warmth and humanity shone through. Anne Cray, executive fashion editor of British *Vogue*, whom Tilberis took with her to *Bazaar*, confirmed this. "She was always optimistic, no matter what the crisis. Nothing overwhelmed or depressed her."

Tilberis was very family-minded, close to her younger sister, Lois, her GP brother, and her mother Liz, with her bob of silver hair, was attractive but never claimed to be a stunning beauty. "Fashion editors who look too good make models feel bad," she said. When she took over at *Harper's Bazaar* in 1992, she weighed 10 stone 10 pounds, "which is practically illegal in our business – even more so in New York than in Europe – and my weight became the subject of rude gossip. One newspaper article, one of the kinder ones, called me bovine... Under the influence of my slender staff I'd lost about 20 pounds that first year at *Bazaar*."

In her autobiography, *No Time To Die*, published in 1998, Tilberis detailed with painful honesty the personal obstacles she had encountered and her refusal to hurry her strong emotional needs. She described how her father forbade her to marry Andrew Tilberis, "because he was a foreigner". (They were to enjoy almost 30 happy years of marriage.) She wrote of her devastation at not

'In England it was, "She's just the editor of a fashion magazine." In New York they call me Million Dollar Liz. I'll take Manhattan'

being able to have children; the failure of her fertility treatment; and her joy in eventually adopting her two sons: Robert in 1981 and Christopher in 1985.

Her fighting spirit is nowhere more apparent than in her account of her battle against ovarian cancer, which was diagnosed in December 1993. That day should have been the "most glamorous and celebratory" of her life. Some 250 of the grandest fashion people in New York had gathered at Tilberis's brownstone house to celebrate *Bazaar's* fashion awards that year, which included two Ellices – National Magazine Awards, the Oscars of the fashion press, named after the elephantine statues designed by Alexander Calder.

Hearst had taken out a full-page congratulatory ad in *The New York Times*. After almost two years, Tilberis had reversed its decline and it was once more recognised as one of the world's pre-eminent fashion magazines. Scheduled for surgery the next day, she told no one except Andrew.

Cruelly, it seemed possible that the cancer had been caused by her infertility treatment. In spite of waging a tremendous battle against the disease and raising public awareness of it, Tilberis managed to carry on working over the next few years, and *Harper's Bazaar* main-

tained its prestigious position in the magazine world.

Although eminently successful Tilberis believed that England never appreciated her: "In England it was, 'She's just the editor of a fashion magazine.' The literary group wouldn't talk to me; the acting group wouldn't talk to me; the newspaper journalists didn't want to know. Nobody was interested in me. In New York they call me Million Dollar Liz. I'll take Manhattan."

AVRIL MOLLISON

Liz Tilberis loved fashion, writes Sally Brampton. Her affection for it was in equal measure to her irreverence. She mocked it mercilessly – "Come on, guys, we're only talking frocks here" – and defended it robustly.

The woman who made it from the equivalent of *Vogue's* typing pool to become editor-in-chief knew every inch of fashion magazines, every trick, every cliché, every heart-wrenching image. She created many of them herself in her days as fashion editor when she worked with the great photographers from Terence Donovan and David Bailey to Bruce Weber and Arthur Elgort.

In her position as editor of *Vogue's* More Dash than Cash pages in the early Seventies, she subverted that magazine's elitist take on fashion with the notion of affordable chic. Scouring the market for unlikely sources of fashion – caterers' outfitters, army surplus stores, traditional gentlemen's shops – she put together her pages with flair and originality. Most of all, she made fashion accessible.

Later, when she became fashion editor, she introduced the work of Bruce Weber and set the tone for the healthy, vital and strong images of women that have since come to dominate fashion magazines. Weber's first cover for *Vogue*, in 1980, produced in collaboration with Liz, was of a fresh-faced young woman, laughing into the camera and wearing no make-up. It so confused *Vogue's* printers that, when the proofs were returned, they had touched in the mouth with red lipstick.

Laughing women, kids, old jeans, T-shirts, men's white shirts, and even dogs in fashion shoots – these were all part of Liz's tenure as editor-in-chief of *Vogue*. She believed in fantasy too, and glamour, but always grounded in ruthless common sense. It was Liz who persuaded the Princess of Wales to pose for a cover for *Vogue* and, together with the photographer Arthur Elgort, gave Diana the clean, carefree image of the modern princess that she kept right to her death. The two became firm friends. Diana was one of the first people on the telephone when Liz emerged from the major operation that marked the beginning of her illness. "Diana who?" asked her husband, Andrew Tilberis. "Diana Windsor," came the reply.

Liz was a great leveller in people as well as fashion and that, as an editor, was her great strength. Everybody, in Liz's eyes, was equal, but nobody was more equal than the readers of her magazine. Earthy, practical and with a wicked sense of humour, the only thing she truly revered was talent, which she encouraged wholeheartedly. All other ex-assistants, of whom I am one, remember her with huge affection. She became our friend, as well as our mentor. The charm, which she possessed in bucketfuls, was five parts warmth, three parts humour. It was a formidable weapon, wrong-footing even the chilliest opponent. Her reputa-



Tilberis: editor of British *Vogue*, 1987-92, and *Harper's Bazaar*, 1992-99 Patrick Demarchelier

tion for niceness was legendary but disguised a formidable determination. She was the iron fist in a velvet glove.

She never forgot the snobbery that surrounded *Vogue* in the early years, and was determined not to allow the same culture to infiltrate her magazine. Her policy as an editor was completely open door. She inspired fierce loyalty: not only in her staff but also in the photographers, models, make-up artists and hairdressers who worked for her. She regarded herself as part of a team and never claimed credit for herself alone. "A magazine is made only of people," she once told me. "It walks in the door in the morning, and out the door at night. People sometimes forget that."

Liz never did. That's why she loved America. She loved its openness, its willingness to celebrate success and to embrace new ideas. When she was invited to New York by the Hearst organisation in 1992 to revitalise the ailing *Harper's Bazaar*, there were many on both sides of the Atlantic who said it was an impossible task. Undaunted, Liz set up camp alone in a dark basement in the bowels of the Hearst building. For three months, she talked into a telephone. Using tenacity, determination and sheer charm, she pulled together a strong creative team and within a year, *Bazaar*

rose phoenix-like from the ashes to take its place alongside Anna Wintour's *Vogue*.

She loved every moment of the magazine's success and took great joy in it. When the paparazzi turned their cameras on her, she was incandescent with delight, for it marked *Bazaar* as a major player in the ruthlessly competitive American market. The media made much of the rivalry between Liz and Anna Wintour, the two English-born editors, and Liz, who knew a good story when she saw it, publicly played the game to the hilt. Privately, she expressed only respect for Anna Wintour, who responded in kind.

Bazaar is her legacy and one that she was right to be proud of. Liz was far too clever to go head-to-head with the vast, commercial machine that is American *Vogue*. Instead, she created a quieter, cooler magazine that took fantasy and understated glamour as its blueprint. Yet, at its heart it remained true to her vision of practical, democratic fashion. Her editor's letter in the present issue of *Bazaar* is typically Liz. In it she celebrates the humble sweater.

She took the chill out of fashion. Her warmth and humanity were ever present. Her illness she treated with robust humour – "my cancer diet" she said of her slimmed-down figure – and she campaigned tirelessly to raise

awareness of ovarian cancer and wrote candidly about the condition in the magazine. Her courage, even when she was in terrible pain, was formidable.

Soon after a bone marrow transplant, in which she nearly died, she was back attending the fashion shows – unable to resist a look at what Calvin, Donna and Ralph were up to. She couldn't eat because her mouth and throat were ulcerated, and her fingernails had splintered to the quick. Typically, all she did was tell a funny story about Andrew having to get her tight on for her in the morning. When I commented how good her hair looked despite chemotherapy, she laughed like a drain. "Some fashion expert you are. Can't tell a wig when it's staring you in the face."

She was devoted to her sons, Robbie and Christopher, and to Andrew. "My boys," she called them. "My team."

Elizabeth Jane Kelly, fashion editor: born Alderley Edge, Cheshire 7 September 1947; Fashion Assistant, *Vogue* 1970-73; Fashion Editor 1973-85; Executive Fashion Editor 1985-86; Fashion Director 1986-87; Editor in Chief 1987-92; Editor in Chief, *Harper's Bazaar* 1992-99; married 1971 Andrew Tilberis (two adopted sons); died New York 21 April 1999.

Charlie Whittingham

AMERICAN RACING has lost a legend and a talisman with the death of the trainer Charlie Whittingham.

The former marine, known universally as "The Bald Eagle" because of his hairless bullet of a head, was regarded as a man as tough as a tank but with a kind, warm-hearted streak. He was particularly patient with his horses, and was opposed to exposing them to a ruthless, grinding programme of racing in their nascent careers. That meant Whittingham's success was carved from campaigning older horses, which he often "remoulded" after they came to his California stables following careers in Europe and South America.

It also meant, incredibly, that he did not win any of the three legs of the famous American Triple Crown – the Kentucky Derby, Preakness or Belmont Stakes – until 1986, 52 years after his first winner as a trainer. Just as incredibly, when the "big red colt" Ferdinand won that year's Kentucky Derby, it was Whittingham's first contestant in the "Run for the Roses" for 26 years. It would have been an absurd incongruity had a trainer of Whittingham's status not ever won the Derby, and Ferdinand did him proud. Ridden by the legendary jockey Bill Shoemaker, who looked like a pea on a drum on the son of Nijinsky, Ferdinand went on the following year to give Whittingham his first win in the prestigious Breeders' Cup series when he landed the Classic after a thrilling duel with the 1997 Kentucky Derby winner Alysheba.

In 1989, Whittingham produced a horse just as sensational as Ferdinand to give him another Derby winner: Sunday Silence was a black, rangy, temperamental colt who needed skilful, careful handling. He had nearly died after illness as a foal and also suffered another near escape in a horsebox when the man driving him suffered a fatal heart attack. But like his trainer, Sunday Silence was tough – and a survivor.

In 1997, a West Coast/East Coast rivalry built up between Sunday Silence and the New York-trained Easy Goer, regarded by many as an absolute champion. Sunday Silence lowered Easy Goer's colours in the Derby and the Preakness only to be beaten by his great rival in the final leg of the Triple Crown, the Belmont. A fascinating showdown was set up for the same year's Breeders' Cup Classic, which saw Sunday Silence assert his superiority over Easy Goer once more.

Whittingham was a trainer who built his success from scratch. His was a one-horse operation when he started, which meant he also acted as a jockey's agent to pay the bills. It was a chance meeting with the singer Bing Crosby in 1957, when he was 24, that changed his life. Crosby was involved in setting up the San Diego racetrack at the time and as well as loaning Whittingham money, also later introduced him to Horatio Luro, trainer of Northern Dancer, who subsequently became the world's greatest ever stallion.

It was through his time with Luro that Whittingham learnt to import horses and train them to adapt to US conditions so that they could win the valuable, older-horse prizes. The key to it, Whittingham always said, was patience. He hated to rush horses into performing tasks they were not yet physically equipped to cope with.

In all, Whittingham was champion American trainer, based on prize money, seven times. He won American racing's equivalent of the Oscars, the Eclipse Awards, three times, for being leading trainer. He also trained seven horses to win equine Eclipse Awards. Whittingham was a man who reckoned that "sleep is overrated" and he was always at his barns to start work by 4am – no matter what time he had retired the night before. Five hours' sleep was regarded as a lie-in. "And I've never had a headache in 73 years," he once said.

For a man of humble origins – he grew up on a ranch near the border with Mexico, the son of a Yorkshire father and Irish mother – he had a glib array of owners in his barn. They ranged from the gold magnate Nelson Bunker Hunt to the singer-songwriter Burt Bacharach. When one of Bacharach's horses had been running below form, the owner suggested he should be wormed. Whittingham's response was, "You haven't been turning out too many hits lately, either. Maybe we ought to worm your piano while we're at it."

Whittingham was a proud family man although he suffered a personal tragedy in 1974 when his son Taylor shot himself aged 21. His other son Michael beat Whittingham to success in the Breeders' Cup series, winning the Classic with Skywalker in 1988. Whittingham's daughter Charlene is married to the prominent racehorse vet Helmuth von Bluecher.

RICHARD GRIFFITHS

Charles Whittingham, racehorse trainer: born Chula Vista, California 13 April 1913; twice married (one son, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Pasadena, California 20 April 1999.

Andrew Osmond

ANDREW OSMOND was a writer of great industry who was blessed with a rich fund of original ideas. He wrote millions of words in his 61 years. Many of them have been greatly enjoyed and by an array of people. At his best, his writing in the genre of the political thriller was as good as it gets.

When Christopher Booker, Willie Rushton and Richard Ingrams (whom Osmond had met at Oxford) put together the first issue of *Private Eye* in 1961, they approached Osmond for funds. To their amazement he coughed up the then vast sum of £300. Although memories differ, it is generally agreed that Osmond thought up the name *Private Eye* during a meeting in Rushton's bedroom, which doubled as the editorial office in the early days. He then helped sell the first issue, wandering through Chelsea pubs and offering it to likely looking readers for six old pence a copy.

What drew people to Osmond was his immense warmth and ceaseless generosity. There are few of us who are incapable of displaying some kind of charity, perhaps by lending something valuable or through a well-judged compliment. But, in Osmond's case, he was himself generous. It was not something he did, it was actually his nature.

There are countless examples of Osmond's generosity, such as when early on he found he had more *Private Eye* shares than he actually needed. His response was to give half of them away to those contributors who had none. (This included me and my wife Tessa, who worked at *Private Eye* at the time. By extraordinary coincidence, Tessa received a dividend from the shares Andrew Osmond had given her on the day he died.)

It often happens that generosity and a fertile imagination go hand in hand – they are possibly born from the same root. Osmond's seemingly endless stream of ideas was to serve him well when, after a spell in the Foreign Office in Rome (he had joined the diplomatic service in 1962) where he had met Douglas Hurd, the two men decided to co-write political thrillers. Their first was *Send Him Victorious* in 1968. The huge success of *Scotch on the Rocks* (1971) and *The Smile on the Face of the Tiger* (1969) was proof, should it be needed, that Osmond had all the skills to write professionally, and he had by then decided to go it alone.

Although well crafted and full of twists, Osmond's first solo novel, *Sadom!* (1975), failed to have the impact of the collaborative books. One

It is generally agreed that Osmond thought up the name Private Eye in Willie Rushton's bedroom

reason may have been that he never told a story better than when it had just entered his head. He often put a novel through dozens of drafts, each losing a little of the brightness of the one before on the way.

I first met Osmond at *Private Eye* in the late Sixties where, having by now left the Foreign Office, he had been asked by Richard Ingrams, the then editor, to think of ways to help the magazine climb out of what had become something of a financial slump. For a while he ran *Private Eye's* commercial side, which largely consisted of thinking up ways of selling mugs, tea cloths and satirical cushions designed by Willie Rushton. It was a job he enjoyed, not because it needed any com-

mercial experience but bags of his unlimited energy and enthusiasm.

The net result was a thriving mail-order business. When not being the commercial director (I name him this in retrospect as no one apart from the editor has any official name at *Private Eye*), he would spend the day walking around the office with a cup of coffee and a French cigarette, and recounting in absorbing detail the storyline of a film or novel he had just thought up.

If it was a film, Osmond would go through the whole thing, from the credits to the dialogue in final scene. Some of his film ideas were brilliant and I suspect that, if there had been fewer, one at least might have got beyond telling it to the girl who dealt with the subscriptions.

He was strikingly handsome and he always dressed with elegance and style, as well as being at all times exceptionally well groomed, even when drunkenly playing beach football in his underpants, as he did during one of *Private Eye's* annual day-trips to Boulogne.

When he left *Private Eye* in 1974, he collaborated again with Douglas Hurd to produce *War Without Frontiers* (1982). It was well received, but a better hook by far was *Harris in Wonderland* (1973). This was a detective thriller published 10

years earlier, which he wrote with Richard Ingrams but under the pseudonym Philip Reid, a combination of their middle names. To collaborate on something as personal as a book is a clear act of giving, which is perhaps why Osmond's novels written with his friends had the edge.

Although he had been to Harrow and served with distinction in the Gurkha Rifles in Malaya he seldom mentioned these facts, though he used elements from both in his books. When he did speak about his military service it was always in terms of how hopeless he had been. In 1985 he joined Writers in Business and more recently he helped to form a similar firm, Company Writers, which set out to improve the quality of writing in company reports and the like.

It provided a healthy income and was demanding work in its own way but it did not provide the challenge of writing a novel. But Osmond was happy in that he knew his wife and children were the direct beneficiaries of his demanding, if not entirely creative work.

It was at home that Andrew Osmond's generosity came into its own. When he, his wife and their two small children, Louise and Matthew, moved to a large former vicarage in



Osmond: stream of ideas

a tiny village near Oxford, the family instantly became part of the local community which included a keen cricket team. Most people enjoy a weekend guest or two but not Osmond. His idea of a weekend guest was the entire workforce of *Private Eye*. Throughout the Seventies, the Osmonds turned bank holidays into cricket weekends and fed and watered (with champagne) everyone.

BARRY FANTONI

Andrew Philip Kingsford Osmond, writer: born Grimsby, Lincolnshire 16 March 1938; married 1964 Mira Stuart Baldwin (one son, one daughter); died London 15 April 1999.

George Ross-Goobey

GEORGE ROSS-GOOBEY was the only truly revolutionary figure in the post-war history of British fund management.

He began his revolutionary activities in 1947 when, at the tender (for those days) age of 36, he was appointed as the pension fund manager of the Bristol-based Imperial Tobacco company, then one of the giants of the British industrial scene. In those early post-war days, the yield on gilt-edged stocks was under 3 per cent, that on equities over 4, even though the economy, and thus corporate profits, were growing.

Nevertheless a combination of memories of the slump, and of the sheep-like nature of the investment managers of insurance companies and pension funds, ensured that none of them had switched any substantial proportion of their funds into equities. Through a combination of self-confidence, intellect and sheer force of character, Ross-Goobey soon persuaded the trustees of the fund to put virtually the whole fund into equities.

Nor did his daring stop there. Not for him any pussyfooting by concentrating on the leading companies, the FT-100, of the day. No, he sprayed the pensioners' money around into hundreds of smaller companies - his particular favourites naturally those based in the West Country. Some of his investments proved disastrous, but the overall record was superb, showing up his more orthodox colleagues year after year.

It took a decade of gilt-edged disaster to convert the City of London to his point of view and by the end of the 1960s Ross-Goobey had perceived - again well before his colleagues - that the price of shares had risen perhaps too far with the emergence of the "reverse yield gap", i.e. that the yield on gilts was higher than that on shares, and that it was time to turn his attention to another type of investment, in this case property. There his record was rather spottier by the slump of 1973 - though at least one large investment, Gateway House in the City, would have proved a winner in the long term. But he soon recovered his nerve, buying gilts heavily in 1974 when yields rose to over 15 per cent.

Before his arrival at Imperial Tobacco George Ross-Goobey's career had been typical of the impoverished middle classes of the inter-war years. He was born in East London, the son of a non-conformist preacher, but, thanks to an enlightened local vicar, he was nominated for a scholarship to Christ's Hospital. Throughout his life he remained loyal to his Alma Mater, and was proud to be a governor.

Because his father was unable to afford to send him to university he trained

as an actuary, but took some time to qualify because he spent so much time on the sports field - playing cricket and above all rugby, at which he represented Eastern Counties. In later life his chosen game was golf - indeed he played 36 holes with typical cannyness and relish until well into his eighties.

Ross-Goobey collected his pension - and a seemingly limitless supply of his favourite cigars - for nearly a quarter of a century, doing his best to preserve the pension fund from the effects of the takeover of his old firm by Lord Hanson. It was also natural for him to be elected - somewhat belatedly - to the presidency of the National Association of Pension Funds in 1972.

His refusal to toe any particular line ensured that he never received the public honours accorded to lesser figures in his profession. Not surprisingly his relationship with the actuarial profession was never easy. A public row with

He was daring, self-confident, sublimely unaware that other people might occasionally suffer fools at all, let alone gladly

the then chief actuary of the mighty Prudential Corporation in the early 1950s, combined with his natural intellectual intolerance, delayed recognition of his status until last year when, at the age of 86, he was finally given the profession's first Award of Honour. But his brusque manner did not extend to the brighter young men who worked for him. He took enormous trouble with youngsters, many of whom, later distinguished in their work, regarded him affectionately as their professional mentor.

Though an intellectual loner he was a highly social animal, clubbable, enjoying the social side of sporting life. Until his death he was active in a number of lively companies, much in demand as an after-dinner speaker, distinguished enough to have become master not only of the Company of Actuaries but also of two other lively companies, the Gold and Silver Wyndredrawers and, somewhat more obviously, the Tobacco Blenders and Pipemakers. His bridge was good enough for him to win the



Ross-Goobey: winner of the Actuaries' Company Award of Honour, 1998

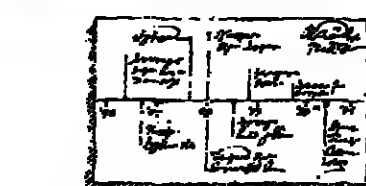
lively companies' annual bridge competition several times.

My friendship with him was largely confined to the bridge table. But the way he played the game showed clearly the qualities that had made him. He was daring, with his own brand of individual logic, self-confident, caring little or nothing for anyone else's opinion, sublimely unaware that other people might occasionally suffer fools at all, let alone gladly.

The human side of Ross-Goobey emerged in the amused twinkle of his moustache - which, like the rest of him, remained trim and fit until his dying day - when he had ventured some particularly outrageous bid which had come off, to the amazement of his partner and the fury of his opponents. He would then relax and tell one of his large fund of funny stories, mostly politically incorrect, virtually all unprintable. (I can hear him muttering, loud enough to be heard by everyone in the room, "What a load of rubbish", on reading this paragraph.)

One of the happiest elements in the Ross-Goobey story is the fact that his son Alistair has turned out to be a (somewhat less outrageous) chip off the old block. A distinguished chief executive of Hermes, one of the City's biggest pension fund groups, he has proved to be one of the few prepared to stick his neck over the parapet and go public with opinions. On subjects such as corporate governance. One of his campaigns was to ensure that company directors should retire at the age of 70, an idea that caused many a twitch, part-amused, part-irritated, part proud, of George Ross-Goobey's moustache during the years before he himself finally resigned from his last directorship of a public company - at the age of 80.

NICHOLAS FAITH
George Ross-Goobey, investment manager: born London 23 May 1911; married 1937 Gladys Menzies (one son, one daughter); died 19 March 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES RICHARD WILSON

Shakespeare armed against oppression

TODAY, AS always on Shakespeare's birthday, the great and good will parade through Stratford to mark his place at the heart of English culture. But this year there will be a spectre at the feast in the shape of a new Shakespeare emerging. The last 12 months have confirmed that there will never be another biography of the dramatist which does not devote space to evidence that he spent a period in his youth as a protégé of Catholic renegades in Lancashire, and remained as bitter with Queen Elizabeth as he was sympathetic to the papist traitors he lamented as "fools of time".

The new story of Shakespeare and Catholic resistance begins in the fratricidal wars of religion, with the arrival at Stratford in September 1580 of the charismatic Jesuit Edmund Campion. He came to England hot from Milan, and armed with a pledge of faith drafted by Carlo Borromeo. One of the first to subscribe was Shakespeare's father John. His "Testament" was hidden in the rafters of the birthplace, where it lay until 1757.

From Stratford, Campion and his recruits rode north to Houghton Tower near Preston, and it was there that he established a beachhead for the Counter-Reformation. The Houghtons had sponsored John Cotton, Shakespeare's schoolmaster, and his brother, Thomas Cotton, one of Campion's priests, and now

their mansion became a college of sedition, which housed, it seems, the teenage poet. Like the "little academy" in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Campion's fraternity vowed to "war against the huge army" of the world, and their jihad might have terrified the English state, if its champion had not been ambushed on 16 July 1581 and carried to the Tower of London.

On 31 July Campion was racked to divulge his hosts, and on 4 August Houghton was raided: the day after Alexander Houghton had dissolved the household, dispersing its library, theatre costumes and musical instruments, and enjoining his neighbours to hide Shakespeare (alias "Shakeshafte"). When he appeared in London around 1590, it was with a troupe from Lord Derby's Liverpool playhouse, so the implication is that "Shakeshafte" worked in these "lost years" for a chain of Lancashire Catholics, his exile enforced by further disfigurement in 1583, when his Arden relatives hatched a suicidal plot to shoot the Queen.

Edward Arden was hanged for this treason, while the assassin, his son-in-law, John Somerville, was strangled in his cell: silenced by their backers, it was said, to prevent a scaffold confession. We may never know if the poet avenged his kin, as the story goes, by poaching from their persecutor, Sir Thomas Lucy, but what these devastating

events do suggest, as Ted Hughes recognised, is how intensely such "a fanatic cell" must have confronted "The Bloody Question" - whether to suffer under an "outrageous fortune", or take up arms against oppression, and by opposing, end it.

At the end of his career Shakespeare bought the Blackfriars Gatehouse in London, and scholars have puzzled over his reason for instantly leasing it to one John Robinson. In fact, this tenant was an agent of the Jesuit school at St Omer in France, and the Gatehouse, with its "trapdoors and passageways to the Thames" was a bolt-hole for escaping priests.

No wonder the Puritan John Speed outed Shakespeare in 1611, beside the Jesuit Robert Parsons, as "this Papist and his Poet" for the Blackfriars purchase turns out to have been his final service to the Catholic network that had sponsored his success. As such, the Gatehouse might stand for Shakespearean theatre, which has been seen for too long as a gateway to the British empire, but leads instead, through a labyrinth of secret resistance, out of Elizabethan power altogether, towards another world, where "it is the heretic that makes the fire, not she which burns in it" who is condemned.

Richard Wilson is the author of *'Will Power'* (Harvester, £12.99)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

DAVIES: To Kathy (née Routh) and Andrew, on 11 April, at St Thomas's, London, a truly beautiful daughter, Flora Ruth.

For GAZETTE announcements, please telephone 0171-232 2012 or fax to 0171-232 2016; notices are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.56pm.

United Synagogue: 0181-343 8888. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2283. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1063. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0151-540 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-232 2572. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-325 1026.

BIRTHDAYS

Mrs Shirley Temple Black, former child actress and US ambassador; 71. The Most Rev Michael Bowen, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark; 69. Mr Bill Cotton, chairman, Noel Gay Television; 71. Mr Antony Cragson, television producer; 61. Mr J.P. Donlevy, writer; 73. Mr Barry Douglas, concert pianist; 39. Sir Desmond Downes, automotive engineer; 77. Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden; 55. The Hon Victoria Glendinning, writer; 62. Mr William Hagerty, former editor, *The People*; 60. Sir Arnold Hall, former chairman, Hawker Siddeley Group; 84. Sir Russell Hillhouse, Permanent Under-Secretary, Scottish Office; 61. Mr James Kirkup, writer and playwright; 76. Dr Richard Laws, former Master, St Edmund's College, Cambridge; 73. Mr Tony Miles, chess player; 44. Sir Richard Mottram, Permanent Secretary, Department of the Environment; 53. Mr Ronald Neame, film producer and director; 88. Mr Mike Smith, disc jockey; 44. Professor George Steiner, writer and Emeritus Professor of English, Geneva University; 70. Mr Ed Stewart, disc jockey; 58. Miss Tessa Wyatt, actress; 51. Sir Eric Tarrow, former chairman, Clydesdale Bank; 79. Mr Peter Young, High Commissioner to the Bahamas; 60.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: William Shakespeare, playwright and poet; 1564. Joseph Mallord William Turner, painter; 1775. Max Ludwig Planck, physicist; 1858. Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov, writer and lepidopterist; 1899. Deaths: William Shakespeare, playwright and poet; 1616. Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, writer; 1616. William Wordsworth, poet; 1850. Rupert Chawner Brooke, poet; 1915. Larry "Buster" Crabbe (Clarence London Crabbe), swimmer and actor; 1983. Otto Preminger, film director; 1986. On this day: King Brian Boru of Ireland beat back the Danes at the Battle of Clontarf; 1014. The Order of the Garter was founded by King Edward III; 1349. Plans for a Channel Tunnel were turned down by Queen Victoria and Emperor Napoleon III of France; 1887. The British Empire Exhibition was opened at Wembley; 1924. The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre was opened at Stratford-upon-Avon; 1932. Today is St George's Day and the Feast Day of St Adalbert (Voitech) of Prague, Saints Felix, Fortunatus and Achilleus, St George the Martyr, St Gerard of Toul and St Ibar.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Stella Gambling, "Reading (lib): 'more pregnant than words', Shakespeare and art"; 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Rachel Barnes, "Constable: sky, trees and meadows"; 2pm. British Museum: Karen Birks, "The Challenges of Mexican Stone"; 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Estelle Kohler, Bill Homewood, "Shakespeare in the Saddle: 350 years of Shakespearean acting in America"; 1.10pm.

NEVILLE BLACKBURN

Following the death of Neville Blackburn, Choral Evensong at Ely Cathedral at 3.45pm on Sunday 30 May will take the form of a Thanksgiving Service for the Blackburn family. The Very Rev Lionel Blackburn was Dean of Ely from 1936 to 1951. Further information from the Chapter Office, Ely: 01353 667735.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Philharmonia Orchestra, and Patron, International Board of the Marinsky Theatre, hosts an evening for supporters of the two companies, at Buckingham Palace: The Duke of Kent attends. The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, attends the Animal Welfare Symposium, the Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1; opens the Secondary Heads Association's Annual Conference at the Stakis Metropolitan Hotel, Brighton, East Sussex; and, as Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, attends the Primary Quality Mark Reception at Cardiff Castle. The Duke of Kent, Honorary President, Royal Geographical Society, attends a briefing by Dr Rita Gardner, the Director, at the society's headquarters in Kensington Gore, London SW7.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

No unauthorised deduction of wages

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

23 APRIL 1999

New Century Cleaning Co v Church Court of Appeal [Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Sedley] 26 March 1999

A PERCENTAGE reduction in the piecework rates paid to members of a team and divided proportionally between them was not an unauthorised deduction of wages within the meaning of section 13 of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

The Court of Appeal (Sedley LJ dissenting) allowed the employer's appeal against a finding that an authorised deduction had been made from the employee's wages.

The employer provided contract window-cleaning services. It was accepted that its window cleaners were employees and not independent contractors. They were organised into teams, each with a leading hand, and each team was paid collectively on a piecework system.

The leading hand would collect the workbill for the day, which gave details of the job to be done, and a code which showed the gross amount to be paid by the employer to the team. The team had a choice whether or not to do the work, but the price was not negotiable. Within the team it was agreed how much each member would receive as a proportion of the amount payable for the job, and the employer paid the employees on the basis of information provided by the leading hand as to the relevant proportions.

Because of falling profits, the employer decided that as from 1 April 1996 all workbills for regular jobs would be reduced by about 10 per cent. The employee complained to an industrial tribunal that a reduction of 10 per cent in part of his gross wages was an unauthorised deduction under section 13(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

Morritt LJ said that at the end of each fortnight the individual employee expected to receive a wage made up of the share appropriate to him of the workbill amounts of all the jobs done by his team in the previous two weeks. The amount he expected might be described arithmetically in respect of each job by the equation $w = a\% \times b$, where "b" was the workbill amount for that job and "a%" was the share of the workbill amount attributable to that employee. The wage would

thus be the aggregate of "w" for each job done in the pay period.

Plainly the reduction of b by 10 per cent constituted a reduction by that proportion of an essential ingredient in the calculation of the wage, but did it give rise to a deduction from the wage?

The only legal entitlement on which the employee relied was his contract of employment. There was nothing in that contract which entitled him to or his team to do the same jobs each week for the same price, and there was, therefore, no obligation on the employer to maintain h at a fixed amount.

It was clear that the amount due to each employee in respect of each job was dependent upon the agreement reached by him with the members of his team. Thus a% was not a fixed proportion, nor was it objectively ascertainable; it depended upon the agreement made by the employee with a third party. The uncertainty as to a% prevented the ascertainment of a wage properly payable on the first pay day after 1 April 1996. It all depended on the agreement as to what should be paid on that day in respect of each job going to make up the overall wage.

It followed that the reduction of the workbill amount for each job by 10 per cent was not a deduction from the wage payable but a change in one of the components necessary to its calculation, and that the employer had not, in so reducing the workbill amounts, contravened section 13(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996. KATE O'BRIEN, Barrister

CHESS JON SPELMAN

THE TOP organiser Adam Raof's Fifth Hampstead International Chess Festival took place in the school holidays, 7-15 April, in the splendidly named Slaughter Wing of University College School.

Not only were there three tournaments - one providing the opportunity for grandmaster norms and two international master events, but alongside was a challenge match for a total purse of £5,000 between the two long-term leading Oxyn Grand Prix performers (though as far as I know that isn't how they were chosen), Mark Hebden and Keith Arkell, in which Arkell won the first game but the favourite Hebden won the third and fifth to end up 3.5-2.5 winner.

Meanwhile the Scottish grandmaster Colin McNab played impressively in the category seven GM tournament (average 2.4/6) to win with 7/11 ahead of Alexei Barsov (Uzbekistan) 6.5, Jonathan Levitt (England) as all other unmentioned) 6 and Danny Gormally and the pre-tournament favourite Jonny Hector (Swe-

den) on 5. And although Gormally unhelpfully defaulted on his last-round game against McNab, he temporarily went into the lead in the Oxyn Grand Prix before Arkell clawed it back with a perfect 5/5 at Rhyl the following weekend.

This tournament was also notable for a fine performance by the US women's champion, the 15-year-old Irina Krush, who scored 4.5/5, missing out on an international master norm but still scoring her first women's grandmaster norm.

The IM-A was won jointly by Lawrence Cooper and IM Angus Dunnington on 6.5/9, with the former, who isn't an international master, scoring his first norm. Meanwhile IM-B was won jointly by Bryan Kelly (Ireland) and Simon Williams, also on 6.5, and featured a good performance by Jovanka Houska, third on 6.

McNab's play, particularly as White, is deceptively quiet to start with. But in fact the "heavy" nature of the systems that he favours, lends itself particularly well to violent

action in the late middlegame. The Panno variation with ...Nc6 is usually played with the white knight already committed to c3 - Black could try to reach this with 6...a6 and if 7 Nc3 (though McNab would probably play 7 b3) 7...Nc6. As played 8 Nbd2 is very convenient. White got an edge and 12...f4! looks much too bold. After 15 e5! White had a serious advantage and the excellent exchange sacrifice 20 Nxc5! soon led to slaughter.

White: Colin McNab
Black: Erik Guliksen
King's Indian Defence
1 Nf3 Nf6 16 Ne4 Bxe5
2 c4 g6 17 Nxe5 dxe5
3 g3 Bg7 18 Bb2 Nd6
4 Bg2 0-0 19 Re1 Nf7
5 0-0 d6 20 Nxc5! Bxb1
6 0-0 Nc6 21 Qxb1 Re8
7 d5 Na5 22 Be4 Qf6
8 Nbd2 c5 23 Bxb7+ Kg7
9 e4 e5 24 Nf7 Qd6
10 b3 Ne8 25 Qf5 Nf6
11 Ne1 f5 26 Qxf5+ Kh8
12 Nd3 f4! 27 Rxe5 Rxe5
13 gxf4 exf4 28 Bxe5+ Qxe5
14 Bb1 g5 29 Nxe5 Kxh7
15 e5 Bf5 30 Qg6+ 1-0

BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

SEE WHAT you think of West's alibi after his unsuccessful defence against South's slam on this deal. Politely (for I was East) I agreed that he had faced a difficult problem.

North opened 1 no-trumps (12-14 points) and, for once not playing any exotic defence to 1 no-trumps, I overcalled with a natural Two Clubs. South forced with Three Spades, was supported by his partner, and went on to Six Spades after learning of two aces opposite. My partner led ♠9 and, after winning with dummy's ace, declarer drew trumps in two rounds with ♠A and ♠Q.

Next he led a low heart from dummy to the seven, jack and king. (He looked disappointed on my overcall. I was favourite to hold ♠K.) West could count seven spades, two hearts, ♠A; and presumably South held ♠A too. 11 tricks. If he passively returned a club, South would play off his remaining trumps and dummy's two top hearts. I would have to keep a club and West, discarding before dummy, a heart. Neither of us could retain a diamond guard.

Love all; dealer North
North
♠Q 10 7
♥A Q 5 4
♦A 9 7
♣A 10 5 4
West
♠8 6
♥K 10 8 6
♦K 6 5 3 2
♣8 8
East
♠4
♥7 2
♦Q 10 8 4
♣K Q J 7 6 2
South
♠A K J 5 3 2
♥J 9 3
♦A J
♣3

In an attempt to break up the squeeze, West played back a heart but dummy won and declarer still had a heart to play after cashing his trumps. The double squeeze worked; South made 13 for his 12th trick.

West should have paid more attention to my ♠7. This surely showed a doubleton. A diamond return was essential - not a low one, for then West would be squeezed in the red suits, but the king! "Yes, I saw that," lied West. "But I hoped that declarer held ♠A Q and might finesse." But why should he finesse when the squeeze was certain to work?

WORDS CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

Oneiromancy, n.

Memory. Nabokov himself reviews the memoir and says, "at the oneiromancy and mythology of psychoanalysis Nabokov has been

poking rude fun since the Twenties". Greek for prophecy and dreams, it is a 1665 word, from the Dean of Ely's study of vulgarity. "These rude observations were at last licked into an Art (Physical Oneiromancy) in which Physicians from a consideration of the dreams proceeded to a Crisis of the disposition of the person."



April 1997: as polling day approached, Labour was losing voters in droves over its pro-European stance. Under Mandelson's guidance, Tony Blair picked up a bulldog mascot and a new patriotic rhetoric. And as this final extract from Donald Macintyre's biography reveals, Labour's change of tune on Europe outmanoeuvred the Tory Eurosceptics and kicked away their last support

Mandelson: the push for power

The headline on *The Daily Telegraph's* lead story was awful – just about as bad as you could expect in a general election: MANDELSON AND BROWN STAGE SHOUTING MATCH IN MILLBANK AS LABOUR LEAD FALLS. Fortunately for the Labour Party, it never appeared. It was from a list drawn up for Mandelson by the ever-fertile David Bradshaw, seconded from *The Mirror* to Millbank Tower for a meeting of Labour spin doctors to discuss how they would tackle certain worst-nightmare scenarios, several of them gruesomely plausible: RICHARD BRANSON TELLS MAIL I WANT TO GIVE MAJOR ANOTHER CHANCE; MORTGAGE RELIEF WILL BE SCRAPPED IN FIRST BUDGET SAYS FORMER BROWN ADVISER; EUAN BLAIR SAYS MUM TOLD ME WE ARE GOING TO LIVE IN DOWNING STREET; KEY SEAT POLL SHOWS TORIES NOW NECK-AND-NECK; SHORT WARNS LABOUR NOT RADICAL ENOUGH. The list testified to the party's preparedness. Every possibility, however remote, had to be catered for. Mandelson regarded complacency as the clear and present danger of the campaign. Campbell, the fourth (and only non-politician) member – with Blair, Brown and Mandelson – of the quadrumvirate at the centre of the campaign, agreed. His friend, the Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, memorably warned Campbell at the beginning of the election that it was all too easy to be distracted into thinking about life after victory, rather than about what you had to do to achieve it. "You're in the position of a manager a month out from the end of championship when you're seven points ahead," he said. "What you have to develop is tunnel vision. If you see anything that doesn't need to be there, get rid of it."

Mandelson, as much as Campbell, had no trouble in developing that tunnel vision. Never more than a moderate drinker, he forewent alcohol altogether until Blair had got to Downing Street. Europe was the one element of the campaign which would have a significant impact beyond polling day. It would have been a relatively complex issue for Labour even if Blair had not been trailing *The Sun* in its wake, as the pro-European – and instinctively pro-EMU – Mandelson had been one of the first to recognise. But as polling day approached, Mandelson was deluged with evidence of a Eurosceptic turn in public opinion, particularly – though not exclusively – among "switchers" (ex-Tory voters now contemplating support of Labour). Philip Gould was reporting both that Europe was becoming more important as an issue, and that there was a "clear shift in opinion against Europe". This was anecdotal as well as scientific: on Thursday 24 April, a week after Major's appeal to his party not to "bind my hands" on the single currency, Nick Humphries, a campaign infantryman humbly situated on the front line in the Watworth Road telephone canvassing bank, sent in a "Dear Mr Mandelson" fax.

"We are losing voters in droves," it said. "Whenever Europe and the question of sovereignty become centre stage, people instinctively lurch to the Tories. Otherwise strong Labour supporters are prepared to vote Tory solely over the issue of 'defending the nation'. Interpretation: Aboard Europe at all costs. Blair must go overboard on his nationalism/patriotism." Mandelson sent the message, marked "TB to see", up to Blair's office, a storey above the first-floor war-room at Millbank Tower.

It looked very much as if the speech by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, three days earlier, had badly damaged Labour. A blistering attack on Eurosceptics throughout Europe, but, by im-



After the triumphal tidal wave of Labour's election landslide, Mandelson, without a department to go to, was alone

Will Walker

plication, especially British Conservatives, it had widely been treated in the Europhobic press as an unwarranted intervention by a foreigner in domestic British politics. Moreover, Humphries' judgement was about to be handsomely vindicated. The very day after Mandelson received his fax he was sent by *Opinion Leader Research* the latest findings from two focus groups in Leicester surveyed the previous evening.

The report noted: "There appeared to have been something of a sea change. Whereas before the issue appeared to be the Tories' in-fighting, it now appears to be one of us' (the English, not the British) versus 'them' (Europe)... the past performance of Major on Europe appears to have been forgotten and Labour and Blair's credentials (experience, negotiating skills) are beginning to be questioned."

Humphries' point about "avoiding Europe" was well taken. Mandelson pressed on with unrelenting, on his own terms, his secret weapon: his cherished party election broadcast with "Fitz" the bulldog to underline the robust Britishness of the campaign. He was fastidious about it in only one respect. A note from the ad agency BMP warned that the dog's testicles were just

visible in the shadow: should they be air-brushed out?

"Yes please," Mandelson wrote in the margin. It was, as Mandelson would remark later, to be a "very New Labour dog". Not surprisingly, the increasingly defensive and chauvinistic note struck in the Labour campaign had already begun to worry some of the Tory pro-Europeans, heroically holding the line against the tide of Euroscepticism in their own party. In separate chance conversations with Mandelson, Ken Clarke and John Gummer had both assured Mandelson they would hold the line against attempts to persuade John Major to rule out the single currency. But what if Labour were now preparing to desert the cause and rule it out until the next election – matching, or even outdoing, the Tories in Euroscepticism? That would leave Ken Clarke, whose threat of resignation had prevented John Major ruling out membership, hopelessly exposed.

On 6 April Robin Cook showed worrying signs of heading in just that direction. He said he saw "formidable obstacles" to joining the single currency in 1999 – or the two years after that. This appeared significantly to harden Labour's line against the single currency. Worse still, from the

point of view of the Tory pro-Europeans, Blair did not slap down Cook's phraseology the following night in a *Panorama* interview – one in which he appeared unusually flustered.

At this point there was a rare occurrence – rare, at least, during a general election: secret contact across enemy lines. There was sufficient anxiety in the Clarke camp for Anthony Teasdale, Clarke's special adviser at the Treasury, to seek clarification. Roger Liddle, soon to go to Downing Street to work for Blair, was already acting as an unpaid adviser to the Labour Party, and Blair and Mandelson in particular. Teasdale, who knew him to be a fellow pro-European, now telephoned him to find out what was going on in the Labour high command. If Labour was about to harden its line against the single currency, it seriously affected Clarke's position.

"Keeping the entry option open was a major priority for Ken," said Teasdale. "He had, after all, signalled his willingness to resign over the question. After talking to the Chancellor, I rang Roger and asked him point-blank if Labour's policy was about to change. He said that he did not think it would or should but that he would find out and get back. He did phone back days

later: the policy was staying the same."

After the initial call Liddle sat down the following morning and wrote an urgent and confidential memo to Mandelson pointing out the facts of life. Cook had gone significantly further than the Tory government, which had stipulated that British entry on 1 January 1999 was "very unlikely" but was officially neutral on entry at any time after that, and might even consider going in at the start if the launch date was delayed beyond 1999. Liddle put his finger on the problem: "Is it really in our interests for Major to shift the Government's position to ruling out effectively a single currency in the next parliament? If in Clarke's judgement, it is Labour that has sold the pass, I would not bank on a Clarke rebuttal or resignation. Rather, I would expect Clarke to retreat in disgust as the Tories try to save themselves from oblivion by out-flanking us in Euroscepticism."

This outcome would have been perilously close to one of the "nightmare scenarios" headlines which David Bradshaw had produced for Mandelson a fortnight earlier: MAJOR AND CLARKE ANNOUNCE AT AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE THAT TORIES WILL NOT JOIN SINGLE CURRENCY IN THE NEXT PARLIAMENT.

But it was not to be. Mandelson now swiftly sent the Liddle memo on to Jonathan Powell in Blair's office. And though some pro-Europeans, inside as well as outside Labour, continued to be alarmed by the campaign's nationalist tone, the loose language used by Cook and, to a lesser extent Blair, about the single currency was not repeated. And Clarke did not abandon his stand against ruling out the single currency in the next parliament. Labour did not "sell the pass".

David Butler and Dennis Kavanagh, authors of *The British General Election 1997* say, correctly, that "Peter Mandelson was credited with many things for which he was not responsible"; but they add that the tributes paid by the Conservatives to the operations of Labour's Millbank centre and their determination to learn lessons from it "make it possible that 1997 will be seen as a landmark for Mandelsonisation".

One of the things for which Mandelson could reasonably take credit was the level of practical readiness achieved since early 1995. Many other people deserved to share that credit. But, as Kavanagh and Butler point out, it was Mandelson who had "planned the details; a grid of 'who does what' lists of themes and 'messages'; research and rebuttal routines...". The physical preparations were designed to ensure that nothing – not indiscipline, nor confusion, nor imperfect communications, nor incompetence – got in their way.

At 6.30am on Friday 2 May, Mandelson presided over a meeting of some of the key players in his team: Margaret McDonagh, Matthew Taylor, Tim Allan, David Hill, Wegg-Prosser. With a steely sense of party discipline that would have done credit to his old comrades in the YCL, Mandelson proposed that McDonagh and Faz Hakim should get on to the regional press officers and find out who the hell some of these unknown new MPs, washed so unexpectedly ashore on the tidal wave of Labour's massive election victory, actually were. Were they, or, sentient? Were they Blairite? Were they, in short, trouble?

Then, at mid-morning, almost everybody in the war-room at Millbank began to collect the green cards which would admit them to Downing Street for the "spontaneous" demonstration of party workers awaiting the Blairs as they arrived triumphantly at Number 10. Mandelson, back in his big blue chair at the central desk, did not stir. Where could he go? While the new Cabinet were busy round Whitehall installing themselves in their new departments, he could hardly show his well-known face among the celebratory crowd in Downing Street. He did not yet have a department to go to. He watched the extraordinary moments as they unfolded on television in an empty, silent room strewn with paper and used coffee cups, deflated, solitary – and suddenly wiped out with exhaustion.

MANDELSON, THE BIOGRAPHY: SPECIAL OFFER

'Mandelson, the Biography' is published by Harper Collins at £19.99. 'Independent' readers can buy it at the special price of £14.99 (inc p&p), by phoning 0870 900 2050 and quoting "Department 8231".

'The Real Mandelson' will be broadcast on Channel 4 at 8pm this Sunday

We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end



Eric Nicholls and the stick that dealt the fatal blow

IT USED to be so simple. An Englishman's laurel hedge marked the end of his domain and that was the end of the matter. But, over the years, this marking of suburban territory has led to physical violence, costly trials, and now, death.

This week, Eric Nicholls, a disabled former car dealer, began a 30-month sentence for manslaughter after killing his neighbour with his walking stick. Major Anthony Jones, an 82-year-old former rocket scientist, was found lying in a pool of blood in the disused graveyard between the two men's houses last August. His loyal Labrador, Guntz, was sitting at his feet.

But the anger and bitterness between the pair was so entrenched that Nicholls could not bring himself to express any remorse at all for what he had done. Instead he boasted about it to a group of teenagers who tended the Major as he lay dying.

"I am afraid I gave him a good whacking – it was me," he said. "As he went down, I brought the stick down as hard as I could on

If you must have a dispute with the neighbours, pick young ones. Pensioners are too dangerous. By Kate Watson-Smyth

the back of his neck," he told the police. "I feel a sense of relief that he is dead."

During the trial, Nicholls claimed he had acted in self-defence after the major "lunged at him", but conceded that he had often thought of killing his neighbour.

The two men had lived opposite each other in the Berkshire village of Sulhamstead for 35 years. Although they had never got on, they went into business together in 1986 to extract gravel from their common land. When the gravel ran out four years later, the pit was filled in and the cordial dislike between the two men erupted into a bitter dispute over the boundary markers of the two estates.

Nicholls developed a burning dislike of the sprightly major, who had enjoyed skiing and camping and had cycled 10 miles the day before his death to collect spare parts for his

MG sports car. During the war, Major Jones led a unit which infiltrated enemy lines to find the launch sites of V-2 rockets. In later years he worked on a secret, missile-based project which led to Polarix and Blue Streak, and had even constructed his own television from a modified radar screen.

Nicholls is a former car salesman who walked with the aid of a stick. His hatred towards his neighbour was thought to spring partly from jealousy at his way of life and partly from the belief that Major Jones, who neighbours conceded could be difficult, had defrauded him.

Major Jones's son, David, said yesterday that Nicholls was argumentative and difficult with everybody. "I often discussed the situation with my father, and he just wanted it to end. It was a one-sided dispute which we tried to diffuse. It was a vicious, brutal and premeditated

attack. He was charged with murder and should have been convicted of murder. My father would have easily made 100. He was unstoppable, did his exercises on the dining room floor for an hour every day, skied, windsurfed. He was an extraordinary man."

There is nothing new about feuding neighbours, but what does stand out about this case – like many of the more ferocious disputes – is the age of the protagonists. That famous stiff upper lip which won the War for Britain is still present in the nation's psyche. All over the country there are pensioners who kept Hitler out of Blighty, and they'll make damn sure that no neighbours are going to tramp all over their lawn.

Two years ago Charles Stanton, then 87, and Michael Jones, 67, ended up with a massive legal bill after a 16-year feud about the height of the hedge between their houses.

The Stantons planted a row of fast-growing Leylandii and Mr Jones, claiming the Stantons had refused to prune them, lopped 5ft off the top, not once but twice. The writs flew back and forth, and both sides spent upwards of £50,000.

Lorna Greinel and Michael Somerton, both former police officers living next door to each other in a quiet Bedfordshire village, argued about the noise and smell generated by the former's horse every stable. The feud culminated in an incident in which Miss Greinel drove some distance with Mr Somerton spread-eagled on the bonnet of her car. (Miss Greinel was later acquitted of dangerous driving.)

Traditionally, the bitterest arguments tend to be about boundary limits, and the older the participants, the more furiously they seem to defend the line of their hedges.

As the judge said over the dispute between Mr Stanton and Mr Jones, it was an "example of the entrenched attitudes which can be adopted by neighbours, and is no good for anybody but the lawyers."



Anthony Jones and Guntz, who sat by his dead body

SCIENCE

It's that old chemistry: new discoveries may show how the body clock works, and identify those sexy pheromones. By Steve Connor

Are you ticking comfortably?

Tick, tock. Something is happening inside our bodies. All day and all night, our internal clocks measure the march of time. They tell us it's time to sleep, time to wake up, time to feel hungry, time to visit the bathroom. Although scientists have identified some of the key components of the body clock, its most mysterious mechanism has until now eluded their inquiry - how does it set itself to local time?

As most people know, the human bioclock runs on a circadian cycle that is slightly longer than the 24 hours of a full night and a day. This means that it must constantly have to reset itself to the local hours of daylight, otherwise it will continue to run slower and slower until it ends up expecting someone to sleep for eight hours during the day and be awake during the night. For 30 years, scientists have known that this resetting to local time involves the eyes. Blind mice, and people who have lost the sight of their eyes, are almost always incapable of resetting their circadian rhythm.

Recent lines of research have thrown the spotlight on a set of chemicals called cryptochromes, found in both animals and plants. Could these substances be the timer that keeps the human clock in check? This question is no mere exercise in academic curiosity. Understanding the human bioclock promises to help shift workers who have trouble sleeping, business travellers who experience jet lag, and sufferers of debilitating sleep disorders. Experts point out that some of the worst industrial accidents in history (Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and Bhopal) have occurred in the wee hours when our body clocks are striving to shut down brain activity. Knowing how to override the body clock's natural tendencies may save lives.

Several elements of the bioclock are already well understood. Practically every living thing appears to have an internal clock, and biologists are convinced that whatever controls the human circadian cycle must share its evolutionary origins with the clocks of other organisms. In humans, scientists have shown that melatonin, the hormone secreted at night by the pineal gland, plays a crucial role in the cycle. They have also determined that the suprachiasmatic nucleus - a group of cells deep within the brain - acts as a sort of biological pacemaker, sending orders to the pineal gland on how to regulate its melatonin production.

The clock seems to go awry as people grow older. Beyond a certain age, many people find it difficult to keep to their usual patterns of activity and rest. Animal studies have shown that transplanting cells from the suprachiasmatic nucleus of a fetus to an older animal restores the youthful vigour of the bioclock.

Light plays a role in influencing the pacemaker within the suprachiasmatic nucleus. Bright light has been used to reset the clock of people with jet lag and some scientists believe it can avert the psychological depression associated with long winter nights - called seasonal affective disorder (SAD). What could be the mechanism that converts daylight into a physical signal to influence the pacemaker cycle of the suprachiasmatic nucleus?

The blind mice research focused attention on the eyes, particularly the light-sensitive cells in the retina known as rods and cones. These contain a group of chemicals called the

opsins, which are the crucial photosensitive substances used in vision. Do the opsins also act as the vital chemical timer that resets the circadian clock each day?

Russell Foster of Imperial College of Science and Technology, led a team that tested the idea by studying another group of mice that lacked both rods and cones but whose eyes were otherwise intact. As they reported in the last issue of the journal *Science*, they found that these mice behave much like normal mice - exposure to light resets their clock and suppresses the production of melatonin, the nocturnal clock hormone. The research suggested that something else in the eye acts as the timer.

A team of Dutch scientists, working in collaboration with a group in Japan, was dabbling in the chemistry of DNA repair when they stumbled on something quite different. "We weren't really working on the biological clock," explains Jan Hoelmakers, professor of molecular genetics at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. "But now we are."

Professor Hoelmakers and his colleagues were studying cryptochromes - which in some animals are able to convert light into a form of chemical energy that is then used to repair damage to DNA. They found evidence of cryptochromes in human DNA, but became puzzled because no one had come across any evidence that these chemicals are active in DNA repair. They decided to investigate what happened when the genes for two cryptochromes - cry1 and cry2 - were deleted in mice.

Mice are nocturnal animals. After a period of 12 hours in darkness and 12 hours in light, they will continue to show a circadian rhythm, resting for 12 hours and being active for 12, even when living in total darkness for the whole 24 hours. When mutant mice lacking both cry1 and cry2 were put on 12-hour cycles of light and darkness, they behaved just like normal mice. But when the same mice were put through total, 24-hour darkness, they ran around randomly at all times of day and night. They had lost the use of their bioclocks.

More intriguingly, Professor Hoelmakers tested the effects of deleting just one of these two genes. The mouse missing the cry1 protein still had use of a clock during 24-hour darkness, but the clock was running an hour faster. The mouse missing the cry2 protein had a clock that ran about an hour slower. "The two proteins seem to be balancing each other out," Professor Hoelmakers says. The difference in the way the two cryptochromes work could explain why some people are more alert in the morning and some more active late at night.

"The cryptochromes not only constantly adjust the clock to the period of daylight, in order to prepare the body for changes in the seasons of the year, they also form part of the clock itself. Without them, there is no clock," the Professor points out.

It appears that cryptochrome proteins, which are present in the eye as well as the cells of the brain's suprachiasmatic nucleus, may be the crucial link between the stimulus of daylight and the constant resetting needed to adjust the internal bioclock. Although there are still several missing elements to the jigsaw puzzle of what makes the bioclock tick, one central mystery appears to have been resolved. Our internal clocks use proteins in the eye, known as cryptochromes, to adjust to local time.

ONE ASPECT of the biological clock is that it helps to control the regularity of a woman's menstrual cycle. Research into factors that can influence this cycle has revealed the possible existence of another component of body chemistry - the human pheromone. Many animals routinely use pheromones, which are hormone-like substances released by one individual in order to affect the physiology or behaviour of another. One example is the insect pheromone released by a queen bee to prevent her hive sisters from becoming reproductively active.

Many perfume manufacturers accept without question that men and women use pheromones to communicate subconsciously, but scientists are less convinced. No

one has yet isolated a body chemical that can unequivocally act as a human pheromone. Nevertheless, several research teams have produced evidence that there are pheromones at work when people interact.

The power of the human sense of smell is undeniable. A mother can identify her newborn baby or older child by smelling T-shirts worn by her offspring. But that is not the same as proving the existence of pheromones.

Nearly 30 years ago, Martha McClintock, a psychologist at the University of Chicago, produced the first tantalising evidence that there may well be body chemicals transmitted from one to another and capable of affecting human physiology. She found that the menstrual cycles of room-mates

tended to converge over a period of time. Doubters suggested this could come about through other cues, subconsciously sensed by the young women.

McClintock's latest research, published last year in *Nature*, dispels this notion. She attempted to collect pheromones by asking a group of women to wear cotton pads in their armpits (the highest concentration of skin glands) for eight hours. She subsequently disinfected the pads and then wiped them over the upper lips of a second group of 20 recipient women. Half were exposed to pads collected from women who had already ovulated, and half from women who had not.

McClintock's team found that the biological clocks of the recipients were affected.

Fourteen of the women had shorter menstrual cycles when exposed to secretions collected before ovulation, and experienced a delayed menstruation when exposed to pads from women who had ovulated. Hormone measurements showed the shift was due to a change in the timing of ovulation, with the average being two days shorter or longer, but some changed by two weeks.

Another research team, led by Karl Grammer at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Urban Ethology in Vienna, have recently demonstrated that pheromones may be at work in helping us choose sexual partners. They asked a group of non-smoking students - 18 men and 19 women - to sleep for three nights in the same T-shirts, without using

deodorants. The students were then asked to rate the smell of each (empty) T-shirt on a scale of "sexiness". They were also asked to judge the attractiveness of the members of the opposite sex involved in the study. The "sexiest" T-shirt tended to coincide with the attractiveness of the wearer.

Their conclusion was that there may be pheromones that help to underpin our choice of sexual partner. Although the research, along with McClintock's, provides intriguing support for the human pheromone hypothesis, sceptics will want scientists to isolate the key chemicals involved. For the moment at least, the body chemistry of human relationships remains a mystery.

The discreet charm of human scent

TECHNOQUEST

Q Are there such things as leap seconds? Yes. Because of how we measure time, we sometimes need to add leap seconds to match up our clocks with the actual position of the Earth around the Sun. The rotation of the Earth about its axis isn't exactly even, which makes the days vary in length. These slight changes didn't matter until 1967, when atomic clocks were invented and the second was defined as a certain number of oscillations of a caesium atom. This definition is

what gives us International Atomic Time (TAI). But the TAI isn't based on the Earth's rotation, so a calendar based on TAI gradually becomes out of step with one based on GMT. We could use TAI as our official time (and in fact we do, with slight alterations of leap seconds) but then the time would get out of step with day and night and the seasons. So for convenience we use GMT and adjust TAI accordingly. In 1972 a new Coordinated Universal Time scale (UTC) was adopted for international

use. It combines all the regularity of atomic time with most of the convenience of GMT. The seconds of UTC are of the same length as those of TAI, and then UTC is kept within one second of GMT by the insertion of extra leap seconds.

Q Which way do the Earth's magnetic field lines go? On a bar magnet, the field lines go from north to south, but the direction of the Earth's magnetic field goes from south to north. The problem arose

because maps originally used the top of the Earth as north, and the bottom as south. Lodestones (naturally occurring magnets) were used as direction pointers, and it was a long time before physicists came up with bar magnets and theories for magnetism. Unfortunately this mistake was not realised until it was too late to rectify, so the problem has stuck with us.

You can visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.science.org.uk>

UPDATE

FIGHTER AIRCRAFT crippled in the air could stand a better chance of making it back to base with the help of a novel form of computer software based in "neural nets" which are designed to mimic the activity of the brain. When the control surfaces of a combat plane are damaged there is little a pilot can do, reports *New Scientist*.

But NASA engineers have shown that smart software can keep aircraft flying, even if some of their control surfaces are disabled. The tests took place at the Dryden Flight Research Center at the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in California using a modified F-15 fighter aircraft, similar to

those used in the Balkans. For the first time, neural nets were shown to be capable of keeping the damaged aircraft under control even at supersonic speeds.

THREE OF the six gyroscopes used by the Hubble Space Telescope to keep its delicate orientation in space have now failed, as confirmed by NASA this week.

The third gyroscope to fail began to behave erratically in January. Its loss means that the Hubble will have to stop oper-

ating if any of its remaining three gyros fail. "Any further gyroscope failure will cause the observatory to go into a protective safe mode that gives ground controllers complete control of the telescope, but prevents its use for taking observations of the sky," NASA said. A repair mission is scheduled for later this year.

AMERICAN SCIENTISTS plan to land a sundial on Mars so that people can monitor the Martian day via the Internet. The sundial will reach Mars in January

2002, carried on board NASA's Mars Surveyor spacecraft, and is expected to be positioned near its equator. Much of the fabrication is being done at Arizona State University. The parts will be returned to the University of Washington in Seattle for final assembly, and the sundial is to be delivered to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena later this year.

This first extraterrestrial sundial will monitor the movements of a shadow over a Martian year, which is twice as long as Earth's. Mars's seasons are exaggerated - the planet's orbit is far more elliptical than that of Earth - so shadows vary greatly in length.

STEVE CONNOR

Monet is sent packing

It's an awesome and delicate task, returning the 79 paintings by Monet in the Royal Academy to their homes across the globe. Like the elderly millionaires they are, each one is cosseted, monitored and chaperoned with deep discretion. By Steve Crawshaw

For the British public - 813,000 of them, including 8,000 in a final, marathon all-night session - the Monet exhibition at the Royal Academy ended at 6pm last Sunday. Behind the Academy's locked doors, however, the going-out of the last member of the public (it seemed like an ancient ritual, in reality, in the best Victorian *four* tradition, the ceremony is brand new for 1999) was a signal for the real work to begin. Even as a clutch of grandees celebrated with champagne in one room of the Academy, the main exhibition rooms turned into a sudden hive of industry.

Letting more than three-quarters of a million people in to look at the exhibition was easy, relative to the task that the Academy now faced. How to get all 79 paintings safely home again, to destinations all over the world? Answer: only with military planning on a scale that Nato might envy.

Emeline Max, the exhibition's organiser, has spent months in meetings with colleagues to decide exactly how the "take-down" should be implemented. (Meetings took place even as she was organising the arrival of the Kandinsky exhibition that opened last week. Then there are the Bouys and the Van Dyck exhibitions yet to come. The round does not stop.)

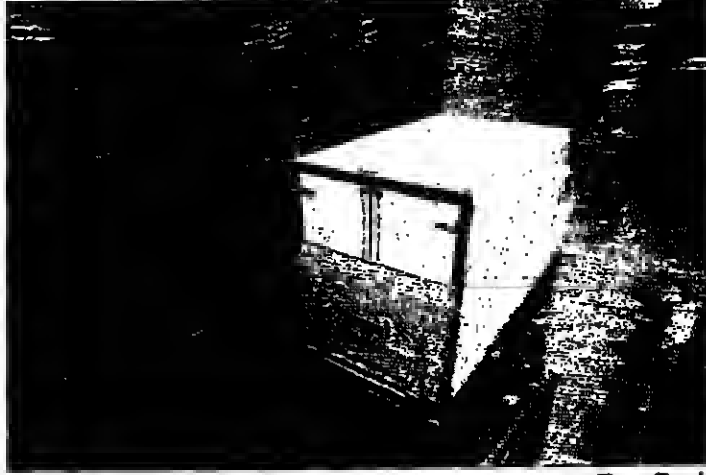
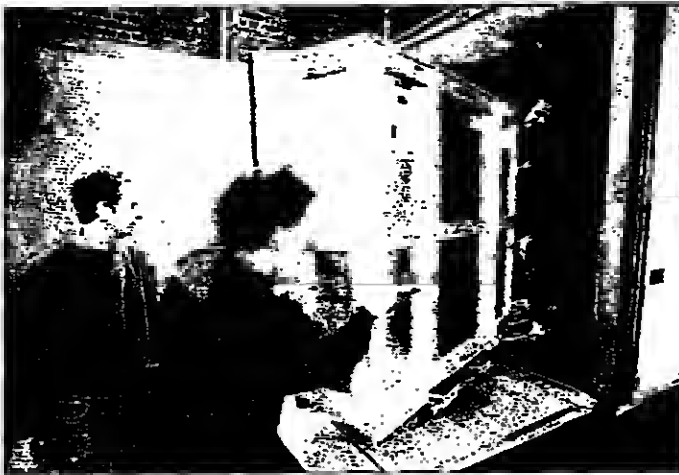
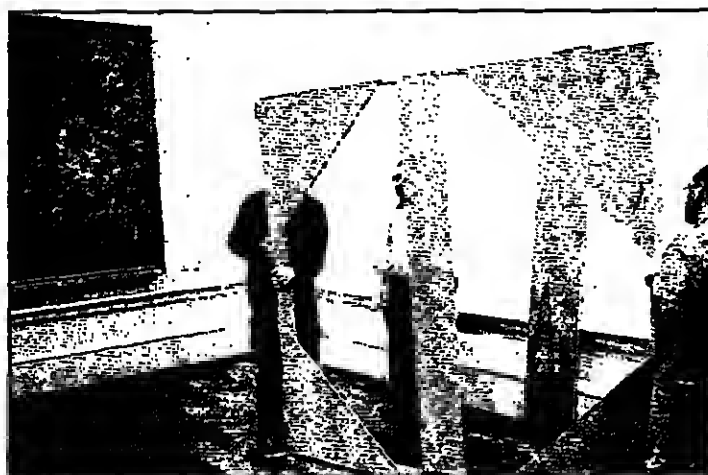
As the last members of the public are still being shoofed off down the grand staircase, Max is busy affixing yellow Post-It notes to the labels of each of the 79 paintings in the exhibition. Every sticky indicates the time by which the painting must be ready - packed, spick and span in every respect - to leave for home or on to its next guest appearance.

These insignificant stickies, it must be said, are a serious business. Before *The Independent* is allowed into the now-locked gallery, it is necessary to swear vows of silence that would make a Trappist look chatty. Even so, there is a frisson whenever I am caught looking at one of the labels with too much interest. As one of the staff courteously explains: "You have to understand, we've never let anybody in here before. It's a bit of a hush."

A cluster of art-handlers - some from the Academy, some from the international art-movers, Momart - don white gloves and start to remove the first paintings from the walls. There is an air of calm intensity. Dan Cowap, the Academy's chief art-handler, emphasises: "You don't go in a rush. And you've got to have a keen awareness of what's going on in your space."

Each painting is laid out on a muslin-covered table and examined for what seems like an eternity - half an hour is considered a quick once-over for a single painting - by a conservator and a courier.

These couriers do not wear motorcycle



After the last visitors leave... the guards close the doors... the paintings are inspected... packed... loaded... and sent off to the airport

Tom Craig

helmets, nor do they greet you with an outstretched pen. Senior representatives of the lending galleries, they have come to babysit their painting or paintings all the way home. (Royal Family rules apply: valuable paintings may not travel in a single consignment, so that it is possible to hear scraps of conversation where multimillion-pound cargoes are divided up on the run. "You have this one and Charing Cross. I'll take the other three. Is that OK?" "That's fine." Thus are the treasures disposed of.)

Most couriers are happy to chat, though eager that their names should stay out of print. They pride themselves on being the invisible ones. A woman described by colleagues as the "queen of couriers" affably declares: "Nobody knows who I am. Nobody knows what I look like. I want it to stay that way." Even on home territory, couriers are careful not to tell colleagues about their moves in advance. "It's basic security. Loose lips sink ships." Breaches of etiquette are sharply slapped down. In a piece

of small talk, an art handler asks a courier how long she will be in London. The instant retort: "You know I can't tell you that."

Occasionally, a fault is noted - on a painting from a museum in Moscow, for example, a flake of paint is lifting. The experts, gazing through their magnifying goggles, are worried. The Russian visitor it turns out, has a phial of exclusive sturgeon's glue - the caviar of the art-conservator's workshop - which she is keen to be used. "I always bring some, just in case." The conservator sets to work repairing the damage on the multimillion-pound canvas, with the intensity of a high-wire tightrope walker without a safety net.

Once the paintings are ready, they are loaded into the waiting, purpose-built crates - which must be as close to the table as possible. "If you're not carrying it, you can't drop it," is the art-handler's motto. "Nobody carries unprotected paintings around the gallery, however carefully. Never, ever."

The painting receives multiple layers of

protection and insulation - and even a crate within a crate. The insulation is intended to make it possible for the temperature to remain almost steady for an entire journey. As one of the staff comments, with only slight exaggeration: "You could live in those crates, they're so comfortable."

The couriers are umbilically attached to the works of art for which they are responsible. Thus, no courier suddenly interrupts himself in mid-sentence to move into another room. His painting, by now safely crated up and decorated with a piece of tape that proclaims in red letters that it is FULL, is on the move. Where his painting goes - on a little roller-trolley - he must instantly follow.

Finally - many hours or even days later - the paintings are ready for departure. Some are transported in an internal lift. But in the case of the Monet exhibition, the largest panels create headaches of their own. They barely fit down the stairs, let alone into a lift. An entire dummy crate had

to be specially constructed for a test walk-through when the Monet exhibition was first planned two years ago, to check that it was worth asking for the loan of the largest panel. "If it had been another 3ft longer, maybe we couldn't have taken it," says Dan Cowap. Fourteen people are needed to carry the panel down the stairs and out of the building, like a funeral procession in jeans.

Finally, it is time for the casual farewell. A crate - from which all the "RA - Monet" labels have been removed, moments before - is hoisted into the truck. And off everybody goes, into the ordinary world, a world in which Monet can get stuck in the traffic before speeding off to the airport.

For the last moment until the plane is airborne, the minders seek to remain in control. The freight is watched into the belly of the plane itself - at which point the representative from Momart informs the courier, who may be in the departure lounge or on the plane. There are occasional hiccups - for example, if the pilot decides at the last

moment that some freight must be jettisoned, because severe headwinds make it necessary to take extra fuel. Frantic negotiations ensue to ensure that this is never the freight that ends up on the Tarmac. More hiccups occur when a courier forgets to bring his or her passport. With Monet, however, all has gone "very smoothly."

Crucially, too, the technology is simple. Greater complications ensue with exhibitions such as *Sensation*, which is awaiting transfer (after a run in Berlin) from London to New York. The formaldehyde in Damien Hirst's *Shark* alone requires six Momart staff to travel with the shark to New York, where they will don big white suits, rubber gauntlets and filtration masks, and go to work in a special "negative pressure tent" to re-create the installation.

It is not surprising, perhaps, that Momart's managing director, Scott Blyth, describes something like a Monet exhibition as "almost routine," by comparison with moving sharks.

Of human Bondage, from Dr No to Goldfinger

ASK JOHN Barry about the James Bond theme and he groans loudly. "Oh my God, not that one again! It's 30-odd years ago and all I really have to say is that I must have done something right, or why did they hire me for another nine Bond movies?" The famous musical sequence, written by Monty Norman but arranged by Barry for *Dr No* in 1962, has become one of the most familiar sounds of the century. Its mix of thriller tension and killer twang, together with other seminal Sixties scores such as *The Ipcress File*, have also helped to make Barry, now 66, an unlikely cult hero for DJs and pop artists in the Nineties.

Asked about his reaction to this, Barry groans. "It was a day job, but no one thinks about things like that. It's nice that Portishead and David Arnold like the music, but really it's because they all went to the movies as kids. That was my experience, too, after seeing Errol Flynn as Robin Hood when I was about three-and-a-half. I always loved music and cinema: they were parallel." He has since scored 120 movies, turned down twice as many (he says), and won Oscars for four of them.

In concert, the opening strains of "Goldfinger" immediately evoke a memorable kitsch frisson. With the 90-strong ranks of the English

CONCERT

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CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
BOND AND BEYOND
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Chamber Orchestra sawing and parping away for all they are worth (but couldn't promoter Raymond Gubbay have beefed them up a bit more? I swear there were a few inches of stage left unoccupied), the bold and brassy theme sounded great, even without Shirley Bassey. There was a long wait before the rest

of the shaken-not-stirred classics got an airing, however, with the rather portentously titled "The James Bond Suite" saved for the finale.

In between came the good, the bad, and the ugly, for out of all of Barry's music has passed the test of time - just like some of the movies. Although he's famed for the belting bass and brass textures of the Bond scores, they turn out to be rather untypical compared to the light, vaguely melancholy, and often Celtic-tinged melodies that appear to resurface in piece after piece. The noted Hollywood mouth-organist Tommy Morgan came on for "Midnight Cowboy", and he was good, but

you still missed Harry Nilsson's song "Body heat" was better, with a satisfyingly noisier saxophone solo, but the *Dances With Wolves* suite seemed perhaps as anodyne as the movie that provoked it.

In the second half, things perked up with a couple of features from Barry's latest album, *Playing By Heart*, from the forthcoming film of the same name. Abandoning Bond-bombast in favour of quiet, conversational jazz, themes inspired by Chet Baker, it successfully re-visited "Body heat" territory, with guest star Chris Botti's marvelously plangent trumpet replacing the sax. "I was a fanatical fan of the Gerry Mulligan

Quartet in the late-Fifties, and Chet Baker was just a different style of player: introspective, personal, and very lyrical," Barry says.

His other favoured trumpet player was Louis Armstrong, who sang "We Have All The Time In The World" for *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. "He'd been in hospital for about a year and he was very ill when we did it, but he was the most lovely man," Barry remembers. "When we recorded him, he said 'What about the tempo?', and I said 'Anything you like'."

When it eventually came, the closing "Bond Suite" was a killer. The theme itself sounded rather over-

manned given the size of the orchestra, but just watching the three rather elderly percussionists rushing back and forth from xylophone to timpani to tambourine was entertainment enough.

As a composer, John Barry may well be a day-job man, but when "Thunderball" begins to roll out its thunder, you would have to be very hard not to marvel at the view.

PHIL JOHNSON

"Bond and Beyond", with John Barry and the English Chamber Orchestra, is at the Albert Hall on 23 and 24 April, 0171-559 8212. "Playing By Heart" is on Decca Records

Young Moor's almanac

THEATRE

OTHELLO
RSC
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Fearon's youthful Othello

OTHELLOS, like policemen, seem to get younger and younger. In Michael Attenborough's extremely fresh and involving new mainstage production, set in the early 20th century, the Moor of Venice is played by a bearded, shaven-headed Ray Fearon. He is an actor who, only a couple of seasons back, made a big impression with his charismatic Romeo. And therein lies the rub. As was the case, in my view, with the casting of another glowingly youthful, fighting-fit performer, David Harewood, in Sam Mendes's recent National Theatre staging, the painful impact of the play is blunted if you level the age gap between Othello and Desdemona (here a fine, mettlesome Zoe Wai-Lee) to that between Romeo and Juliet.

Indeed, Attenborough has had to cut the text to accommodate Fearon's conspicuous lack of maturity. When this Othello hunts for reasons for his wife's supposed infidelity, he declares "happy for I am black" but revealingly leaves out "or for I am declin'd into the vale of years". But the difference of age is important

since it extends that range of opposites - racial, cultural and social - which simultaneously makes the central couple's love a wonderful leap of faith and renders it hideously vulnerable to the insinuations of Iago. The villain triggers what we would now call a midlife crisis.

Fearon's youth is against him here. Competent, watchable but hollow and vocally monotonous, he never arouses the requisite anguished embarrassment in the audience. At his most impressive, tellingly, when he's stripped to the waist, he fails to suggest a man desperately struggling to cling to a grandiose self-image that, thanks to Iago, he has begun to doubt. When he confronts the Venetian grandees, you can neither believe that this low key pin-up has had a long exotic past or that such slow and nerveless verse-delivery ever managed to spellbind

splendid, sinisterly comic Iago. It's as though this jowly, Brylcreemed, bulgy-eyed figure can only restrain himself from knifing the rest of humanity by standing stiffly and permanently to attention and dispensing smug, matey innuendos, that, like the accordion that he hilariously whips out at the regimental firework party, represent the willed sociable side of his psychotic agenda. The production lays a trail of artfully placed cues (his wife seems to give him Desdemona's handkerchief in the starving hope of a recompensing snog which he briskly terminates), which suggest that one of the causes of Iago's nihilistic jealousy is sexual impotence. A grisly pact with the Moor is this villain's idea of a shuddering climax.

But with Mr Fearon beaming over the murdered Desdemona more like a little boy waiting for his lost mummy than a mature man who has staked and lost his whole sense of identity on her, I still look forward to a non-ageist Othello.

PAUL TAYLOR

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MUSIC

He's still the one

From bluegrass to boogie and bankruptcy to backing Bob Dylan, Tom Petty has taken his Heartbreakers through the whole American rock'n'roll tradition. And he's always done it his way. By Andy Gill

As anyone who attended last Monday's Shepherd's Bush show could attest - well, anyone except the half-wit who did his level best to ruin everyone else's evening by vainly calling out for "Two Gun-slingers" after each and every song of a huge 150-minute set - there is currently no better rock'n'roll band on the planet than Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers.

At this very same venue a few weeks earlier, the justly celebrated Wilco had struggled to project beyond the first few rows of the audience. Yet from the moment The Heartbreakers strode on-stage and swung into "Reelin' And Rockin'", there was an utterly compelling sense of focus and control about the way they cruised smoothly around the Petty catalogue, with occasional detours to take in such scenic rock'n'roll landmarks as "Lucille" and "Guitar Boogie Shuffle", and nods to pre-rock bluegrass legends such as Ralph Stanley and The Delmore Brothers.

Everything, it goes without saying, was note-perfect, right down to those peculiar Stanley Brothers harmonies: it was like watching a six-man human juke-box whirr into action, seamlessly switching styles with the aplomb of seasoned rock classicists.

"It keeps you aware of where we come from, what we're about," says Petty of the band's range of covers. "We like all of that American music, from The Beach Boys to The Delmore Brothers. I liked The Everly Brothers so much, and went from them, by way of the Louvin Brothers, to the Stanleys, with those strange swoops and improvisations within the harmonies. And I've always liked R&B, always had to play it - though it's hard to tell from our records!"

So wide-ranging is the band's grasp of pop-music modes that when they played 20 nights at The Fillmore in San Francisco a few years ago, Petty reckons they played over 150 different songs: whatever took their fancy on a given night. It was this residency, rather than any *Spinal Tap* notions that their appeal might be getting more "selective", which inspired The Heartbreakers to return to more intimate venues such as the Shepherd's Bush Empire - though they still somehow manage to cram all their stadium-sized power into the small theatre. It's an extraordinary experience, like having a little six-seater plane powered by jumbo-jet engines.

Petty's worked long and hard at his craft, with a career stretching back three decades to teenage Top 40 covers outfits such as The Epics and The Sundowners, on through his band's first recordings as Mudcrutch - a name, he assures me, that he has no regrets leaving behind - to the various Heartbreakers line-ups. Every stage, though, has been a learning process, whether it's figuring out how to fight draconian record-company contract machinations by declaring bankruptcy (as he did when, several hits into his career, he found he apparently still owed MCA over half a million dollars), or boning up on Bob Dylan's extensive back catalogue in order to be Bob's backing band for a couple of years in the Eighties.

"We had to learn a lot of songs!" he recalls. "We came out of that tour much



"When we talk about music we say: I want some "Across The Universe" guitar. We don't know "obbligato" and all that"

Neville Elder

better musicians than when we went in, because we worked so hard. We'd never backed up anybody before, and we wanted to do it well. Then at some point, Roger McGuinn joined the tour, and somehow he talked us into backing him up on all the Byrds songs, too. So we'd do that, then all of our show, have an intermission, and then we had to come back and do all Bob's show. We played all night, every night."

The results of such graft and application can be heard on the immaculate copy of The Byrds' "Feel A Whole Lot Better" on Petty's multi-million-selling *Full Moon Fever*, the first of a couple of albums produced by Jeff Lynne. Since then, the band have settled into a new relationship with Rick Rubin, better known as a rap and hard-rock producer. Petty views the difference between them in essentially visual terms. "Jeff is more of a painter. He deals in layers, and thinks that way - he's a great arranger. Rick's more of a photographer, setting it all up and snapping it. He's more immediate, he wants to catch the moment live, and you've got to be able to do that with this band, because they won't play good for

very long - they're going to give it to you in the first one to three takes, and after that it's going to get a little bit studied. They're way too good musicians, they quickly know what they want to do, the soul of the song goes away and we end up playing parts, rather than playing from the heart."

In recording, as on stage, the band's breadth of pop knowledge proves invaluable, not least as a kind of shorthand musical language. "That's our whole frame of reference when we talk about music - 'I want some "Across The Universe" guitar here, Leslie'd like that'. It's the only lingo we know - we don't know 'obbligato' and all that," Petty admits with a smile. "Though Ben [Benmont Teoch, keyboard maestro] would probably know. Claims he can read music!"

An in-demand session player with a huge list of album credits, Tench is responsible for many of the subtle textures in the Heartbreakers sound, apt to suggest a harpsichord part, or something weirder still. "We've collected all these weird keyboards over the years," says Petty. "Pump organ, mellotron, chamberlin... and we had an optigan from a

hire place once. We encourage Benmont to bring in the weirdest ones he's got." But there are limits, roughly corresponding to the band's classicist attitude to rock'n'roll: "We won't allow synthesiser, or anything like that. Well, he can have a synthesiser if it's an old analogue one, maybe, but even then it comes under close scrutiny!"

Like so many of his contemporaries, Petty was originally inspired to try his hand at songwriting after hearing The Beatles. "They were the first people I heard of that wrote their own songs," he explains, "and that interested me, because I thought it would be easier than learning an instrument! You could just make up your own shit!" Unsurprisingly, Ray Davies of The Kinks was another big influence - "I thought he was the cat's pyjamas" - and a good case could be made for regarding Petty's tightly crafted vignettes of American lives as the Californian equivalent of Davies' languid English social realism.

It was probably his gift for sketching succinct narratives that landed Petty the commission to score Ed Burns' romantic comedy *She's The One*, for which he

eventually wound up contributing the entire soundtrack when the movie company suggested filling it out with other groups. "That sounded like a shitty idea to me, so I said I'd rather just finish the record myself," Petty explains. "So I took a few pieces of the score, added some stuff I had left over from *Wildflowers*, and had an album in about six weeks."

Despite his obvious interest in the visual side of the industry - the *Alice in Wonderland* video to "Don't Come Around Here No More" remains a landmark of the medium - the experience disabused Petty of pursuing any deeper connection with the movies. "It was a complete lesson in working with Hollywood," he says. "The movie company went on and on about deadlines - 'the album's got to be out the week of the movie' - so I made my deadline, but they didn't make theirs. I have no interest in getting into that side of the business, because I like to control everything - I can't bear a situation where I'm not going to have any say in what the hell goes on. They won't even let you in to cut your own music - it's 'Oh no, composer out,' and *slam!*, the door shuts, y'know?"

LYRIC SHEETS MARTIN NEWELL

Currently defying his critics and delighting audiences, accompanied only by ex-Attraction Steve Nieve, Elvis Costello is touring. He plays Glasgow Royal Concert Hall tonight



Sainted from Memory

ThethingaboutCostello
Ishewntfromsongtoepic
Spittinglyricsatahundred
Milesperhour
Crammedwithpunsand
Syllableandvitriolandvice
Liketartnovellaspewing
Fromashower

Withanadenoidalvoice
ABeatles'nastyteenagebrother
Didhismothermakehimgargle
Drawingpins?
Andawayofsoundingjealous
WhichyerGeldofsandPaulWellers
Andtheothersnevermanaged
Fortheirsins

InthetimetookabandlikeTears
ForFearthetoldtheirdrumtracks
"concretefingers" coulddeliver
threeLPs
whichweremostlypackedwithkillers
- veryrarelyanyfillers
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Totheirknees

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Itwouldonlybethenigglethat
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Butforgivethecountrymaudlin
AndtheBrodsksandthedawdling
OverBacharachinfact
Hehadtocrack

Andthinkaboutyourexes
(thisappliesallthesexes)
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andadmit
Heshouldgetsomemodofmedal
Asaspokesmanforthejilted
Onbehalfoffallthecouples
Whohavesplit

INCOGNITO

NO TIME LIKE THE FUTURE

"Real musicians,
real music, guaranteed
to please."
Mixmag Update

THE ALBUM
RELEASED 19.04.99
FEATURING
JOCELYN BROWN &
MAYSA LEAK
LP CD MC

INCLUDES THE SINGLE:
NIGHT'S OVER EGYPT

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Titan: doing for
washing machines what
the Dyson did
for vacuum cleaners...

The Weekend Review, page 17

THE Fall // The Marshall

SMITH IS LEADING THE FIELD AND THE FALL ARE REALLY BACK ON FORM!
Sunday Times

CONTAINS EVERYTHING THAT MAKES THE FALL INDISPENSABLE
Select

a RETURN TO THE FALL'S HEAD EXPANDING BEST
Music Week

a CHUNK OF UNADULTERATED GENIUS
Time

grand masters



elvis costello & burt bacharach
'painted from memory'

When Elvis Costello and Burt Bacharach recorded 'Painted From Memory' last year it was a perfect celebration of faultless songwriting. The album is now re-released as a commemorative four edition complete with a bonus cd featuring 5 tracks of previously unreleased live material.

MEGASTORES

THE BIG NOISE

TERRY ALLEN

Salvation Sugar Hill

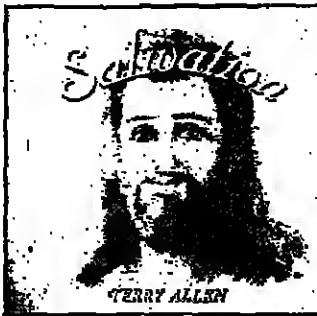
TERRY ALLEN is about as protean as artists get. The 56-year-old Texan has written several screenplays, radio productions and soundtracks, including collaborating with David Byrne on *True Stories*, has sculpture on display in New York's Museum Of Modern Art, video art in Washington's National Gallery, and has designed nightclubs. Along the way, he's picked up a Guggenheim Fellowship and no fewer than three National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, and has found the time somewhere to make 10 albums which push restlessly at the envelope of what is possible in the country-rock genre. Which makes him possibly the planet's

only playwright/sculptor/architect/multimedia artist/musician: No 1 in a field of one. In all his work, Allen displays the kind of attitude one expects from a feisty tyro half his age. His life-size bronze sculpture *Modern Communication*, for instance, depicts a businessman with fingers in his ears and a shoe stuffed in his mouth; and there are few more pertinent commentaries on the current Balkan war than his unflinching, bloody rumination on nationalism, "Ourland", - despite it having been written 16 years ago, with another conflict entirely in mind.

Salvation continues the stream of trenchant commentaries on contemporary American tropes that has made previous releases such as

Bloodlines, *Smokin' The Dummy*, and *Lubbock (On Everything)* cult items amongst the new-country cognoscenti. Imperialism ("Cortez Sail"), baseball ("Red Leg Boy"), murder ("Ain't No Top 40 Song"), and the travelling musician's lot ("Billy The Boy" and "The Show") are all intelligently and emotionally dealt with here, Allen's scabrous lyrics set to backings which shift from country to cajun to conjunto and beyond, as the circumstances demand. In particular, the ambivalent position of Christianity in the current American worldview comes in for special treatment on *Salvation*. To a tuba-bass cakewalk reminiscent of Ry Cooder, "Southern Comfort" offers a

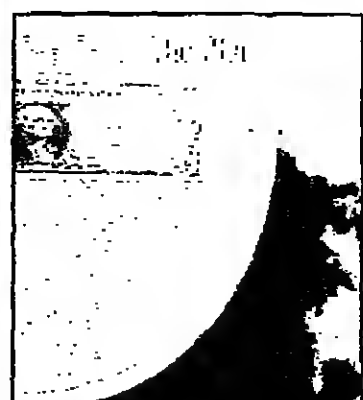
reminder, Southern state by Southern state, of racist dues to be paid come Judgement Day, while "The Doll" employs a bizarre, arabic-country drone of bouzouki, djembe, harmonium, clarinet and cello to underscore Allen's musings on "...the doll inside our dollars, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Cash". Most penetrating of all is the title-track, which posits religion as a moveable feast, and heaven as "...just an adjustment/That moves on down the road". It's not a pretty picture, as he acknowledges - "Hold on to the good book/But don't hold your breath" - but somehow, Allen finds enough gallows humour to play the final lines in the voice of Donald Duck. Let's see Garth Brooks match that.



TERRY ALLEN

...AND OTHER ALBUM RELEASES

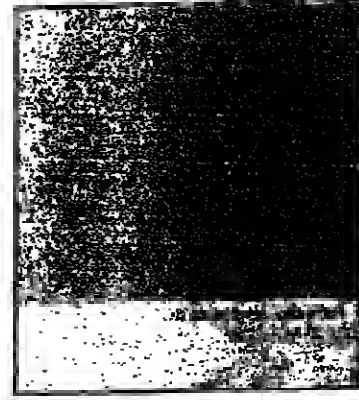
REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL

THE FALL
The Marshall Suite
Artful

DESPITE HAVING, by anybody's standards, a problematic year - domestic troubles, run-in with the NYPD, break-up of his band - Mark E Smith has managed to come up with the best Fall album in years. *The Marshall Suite* seethes with righteous indignation and restless imagination, whether the band are powering imperiously through the breakbeat Krautrock of "Jung Nev's Antidotes" or essaying an obscure rockabilly cover like "Foldin' Money" (a welfare-state cousin to "Summertime Blues" which includes the great line "Well, I went to the social just to get a little pension"). As usual, Smith's rants and ramblings do their best to evade rational explication, and his vocals are sometimes heroically ignorant of the music's key or direction; but it's in that contrary tension between music and vocal presence that much of the band's unique power resides. Yet the most moving tracks here are those which cling most tenaciously to Smith's personal circumstances - the oddball tender "Birthday Song", and "On My Own". Sometimes, one's muse needs a little tribulation to kick it into life.

AFRO CELT SOUND SYSTEM
Volume 2: The Release
Realworld

THE FIRST Afro Celt Sound System album rather overplayed the basic idea of Irish/African crossover grooves, and while *Volume 2: The Release* focuses more on songs, it's still a fairly underwhelming experience, considering the resources Simon Emmerson and his multi-national band have at their disposal. There are, admittedly, some lovely pieces here: one features Sinead O'Connor and Jarla O'Lionaird duetting over a rolling, bass-heavy ambient drone; another threads James McNally's whistle and N'Faly Kouyate's kora delicately through gently interlocking rhythms. But several others sound like halfway houses between activity and authenticity. It's this fastidiousness about authenticity which holds them back: these blends don't stretch their parent styles enough, with no wildness or weirdness about the way they lock together. It's all very pleasant, but one suspects that, in trying not to tread on purist toes, Emmerson and his colleagues have turned the proud traditions of two continents into little more than muzak. Coming soon to a dinner-party near you.

DA DAMN PHREAK NOISE PRUNK
Electric Crate Digger
IK7

GERMAN PRODUCTION duo Oliver Bondzio and Ramon Zenker are better known as Hardfloor, under which name they had an international hit with the 1992 acid-house anthem "Hardtrance Acceptance". Their identity altered through a superhuman feat of bad spelling and pitiful sleeve design, they return here with a bout of Big Beat that kicks funky new life into the genre. Hugely propulsive, it's a three-decade alliance of dancefloor strategies, with contemporary drumbeats and squelchy acid house synths allied to judicious quotes from the likes of Allen Toussaint and Bill Withers. It's packed with character, not least because - contra techno purists - Bondzio and Zenker recognise the humanizing value of rhythm guitar: so much of the appeal of tracks such as "Blueberry View" and "Grand Royal" can be traced to those sick, sinuous wah-wah chops. The overall feel is of a latterday, virtual-state Fatback Band: there's a similar simplicity of purpose about their grooves, and unlike many of their colleagues, they waste no time in getting to the point, and staying there.

NAS
I Am...
Columbia

IN A street-level artform such as hip hop, success invariably breeds jealousy and confusion, both starkly discernible on Nas's follow-up to his huge 1996 success *It Was Written*. That album's dynamic, documentary feel has atrophied here into the familiar dreary litany of drugs, bitches, guns and greed, soured by a rising tone of arrogant paranoia. No wonder that one track finds him complaining of being hated, when on another he deliberately snubs old friends. You'd think the examples of 2Pac and Biggie Smalls might induce a little humility, but you'd be mistaken. When he addresses the subject, Nas prefers to romanticise their deaths risibly - "would you return to us as the resurrection of Christ?" - and then trot out the usual cop-out about black youth having nothing but "hoop dreams and hood tournaments". There is no imaginative feat to compare with the previous album's gun autobiography "I Gave You Power"; instead, Nas now seeks character in apocalyptic blather - a "bad demise for one of the few rappers who could balance ghetto crime dramas with a keen awareness of wider social issues."

A great deal of sympathy for the devil

WITH HIS gold-rimmed shades and oversized pork-pie hat, Cake's John McCrea was just a trenchcoat away from being arrested. Indeed, the Sacramento band's singer-guitarist is gloriously out of sync with the current pop-star look and a far cry from the manufactured geekiness of British guitar bands.

Cake belong in one of those backward towns in David Lynch movies, inhabited by snailster people with facial twitches and no teeth. You half expect their guitars to be pick-axes

and tumbleweeds to come rolling across the stage. With this palpable weirdness comes a belfy stage presence. From the outset, McCrea commanded authority with muscular vocals that made you want to stand to attention and shout "Sir, yes sir!". When he ferociously chastised a man in the audience for heckling, everybody was shaking in their shoes. The heckler seemed destined never to go out again.

Another thing that separates Cake from their peers is their won-

derfully skewed approach to music. Their songs feel modern yet strangely antique, embracing elements of blues, funk, rock and country with melodies that are comfortingly familiar, even though you might never have heard them before. Lyrics unveil a wry, self-deprecating humour with hard-luck

stories that are utterly believable. Everyday tales of unrequited love and disillusionment are peppered with stream-of-consciousness lyrics that veer between poetic and downright silly. Their drollness is heightened by McCrea's deadpan facial expression, the occasional twitch of his beard sometimes being the only indication of life behind the Elvis specs.

But even with their delicate melodies and kooky lyrics, Cake would be nothing without their

marachi trumpet Vince Di Fiore. His insistent flourishes give Cake's songs an emotional depth, providing the rueful sentiments of "You're Never There" and "Ruby Sees All" with a hint of tragedy while affording a carnival atmosphere to the more light-hearted numbers.

Occasionally, McCrea's songwriting lets him down. In the funk-driven "You Part The Waters", the rhyming of the word "plano" four times in the chorus suggests that he has been unable to think of anything

else to rhyme it with, and hoped nobody would notice. His frequent bitching about materialistic women with large credit accounts was also tiresome and it was a relief when he asked us "how many of you are in touch with your dark side?" and launched into a song that expressed a healthy fascination with the devil. The ardour with which he sang the words to "Satan Is My Motor", suggested he may have had a few dealings with the man himself.

FIONA STURGES



Cake: palpable weirdness

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A day in the life of Eric Benét

Life has been tough on this soul singer – deaths, depression, creative block – but now, with a great new album, things are looking up. By Chris Wells

Cosmopolitan has asked Eric Benét to follow the example of Lenny Kravitz and consent to be one of its naked centrefolds. He's thinking about it. We're talking in Warner Bros Records' HQ in West London, ostensibly about his very good second album *A Day in the Life*, but what's really playing on his mind is the fact that his current European promotional tour has kept him apart from his daughter India for three weeks. Since the death of her mother, Eric's former girlfriend Tami, in a car accident five-and-a-half years ago, the child, now seven, has been raised by her father alone, in between his increasingly successful attempts to build a career as a soul star.

"She's the main reason why I still live in Milwaukee," he explains, adding that it is his own mother who provides the permanence that makes much of his pop life possible. "I record in Philadelphia... Los Angeles... play all over the world, but when I get back home I like to keep all the things that surround her as calm and uneventful as possible. OK, sometimes – not often – I have just taken her out of school for a week and done lessons with her just so we could be together. But, y'see, the older she gets, the more evident it is that she's the single most important thing that's happened to me."

These are hardly the words of the typical soul hunk: god/Whitebeeste clone, mainly because 29-year-old Benét is anything but. His may be the chiselled chin and hooded eyes that have of late reputedly caught the eye of the actress Halle Berry, but his approach to music-making recalls the more subtly introspective moments of Wonder, Hathaway and Gaye than any of his overtly sex-obsessed R&B contemporaries. And that's just the way he likes it.

"I guess it kinda puts my private life on the line a little," he muses, "but, hey, if you're a carpenter you know you're gonna hit your thumb with the hammer once in a while. It's an occupational hazard. The only way for me to express myself properly is to expose myself completely. Like Marvin, sometimes I put my business out on the street."

On his first album, *True To Myself*, released in '96, the song that



Benét: 'The only way for me to express myself properly is to expose myself completely'

Paul Ross

most did that was "While You Were Here", a piece he wrote on the emotional and physical hole left by Tami's death. His father's demise from cancer, India's birth and then the dropping of his first band, Benét, by EMI Records after just

one failed album, had already provided Eric with an eventful 18 months when Tami's accident put her into a five-day coma from which she never emerged. Benét sank into a two-year depression which only his relationship with his daughter

prevented from verging on the terminal.

"It really was the hardest thing I've ever gone through," he admits. "Even losing my father, as traumatic as that was, didn't hurt as much because... well, at least when we

knew he was dying we all – my mom, my two sisters, my brother – got the chance to say goodbye. Tami and I weren't actually together at the time she died – I was seeing India every weekend – but the feelings of guilt, remorse, hereavement,

depression just took over. Hearing India call my name when I came home from work at the end of the day felt like all I had to hang on to."

During a period which he describes as "creatively empty", Benét worked shifts at UPS mixed

in with a little studio engineering for local Milwaukee bands laying demos. Then, at last, his own musical ideas began to flow again. With his cousin George Nash, an accomplished guitarist, and huddy Demonté Posey, a keyboard player and programmer, he demo'd three songs and sent them to Warners. They signed him in a moment.

Unbeknown to Eric, his organic, Seventies-influenced soul style had happened to come along at just the time America's major record companies were looking for an alternative to the groove-heavy, jack-swing derivatives of Teddy Riley and Jodeci that had all but swamped R&B radio in the early Nineties. D'Angelo's *Brown Sugar* set came out when Eric himself was in mid-album. Maxwell's *Urban Hang Suite* launched shortly before *True To Myself* was put on the release schedule. So-called "nu classic soul" had arrived.

Benét's first single, "Spiritual Thang", was a top 10 R&B hit. While the album didn't break any sales records, it still figured on many critics' "Best Of" lists at the end of '96. Now, with Erykah Badu and Lauryn Hill taking the last two Grammys for Best R&B Newcomer, and a flotilla of more instrumentally inclined black singer/songwriters on the horizon – BMG's Angie Stone and Cherokee, Universal's Granique, Sony's Frank McComb – and keenly awaited follow-up projects from both Badu and D'Angelo expected before the flash of the first millennium firecracker, the time may have come for Eric Benét. And the all-round strength and musical maturity evident on *A Day in the Life* suggests that he realises it.

"I got an album with Roy Ayers playing vibes on it, with Faith Evans and Me'Shell Ndegéocello singing on it, with producers like Wyclef Jean from the Fugees and Something For The People contributing to it... that some people are telling me is gonna win Grammys. If you'd have told me five years ago that I would even be in this business, let alone recording music that I could feel proud of, I'd have made an appointment with a psychoanalyst. I got to be glad I stuck around."

Eric Benét's single 'Georgy Porgy' is released this week. *A Day in the Life* is released on 3 May

Monkey magic

GAGGLES OF Japanese kids, eager to see one of their native pop idols, is hardly a sight you'd expect to see in drab old King's Cross, but tonight the renovated Scala plays host to Keigo Oyamada, aka Cornelius the Intelligent Ape, and in some eyes the most imaginative studio wizard at work in the world today.

Last year's astonishing *Fantasma* album paid homage to such Sixties greats as the Beach Boys and the Velvet Underground, yet Oyamada didn't balk at using 30 years of technological advances, much of it created by his fellow countrymen, of course, to make the year's sharpest, most contemporary sounding record.

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Sweet pop harmonies sat happily alongside heavy metal riffs, and erratic drum and bass beats, yet the effect was never merely knowing, rather a heartfelt tribute and update. More recently, a collection of *Fantasma* remixes has seen such well known artists as Blur's Damon Albarn and the highly rated UNKLE rework Oyamada's originals, with mixed results. In short, Cornelius is hip.

Translating his studio-based sound, and famously extra-

gant Japanese stage appearances (one reputedly featured a set of robots in lieu of a band) into a venue holding a few hundred people proves remarkably successful after some initial hiccups.

Excellent songs such as "New Music Machine" and "Crash" are murdered by a poor sound mix, and all the strobos in the world can't hide the fact. But gradually it all falls into place. The intelligent visuals enhance "Count 5 or 6" and "Ball in Kickoff", a collection of football clichés you can dance to, destined to drive you mad when the World Cup is held in Japan in 2002. By "Brand New Season", Oyamada is in control. Elvis appears

on the screen and we're treated to "Love Me Tender" on the theremin. The clunky, whirring "Star Fruit Surf Rider" is terrific and "Free Fall" is even better, rocking out hard and defiant, a one-string guitar solo intact.

Where else can you see a band clad in matching khakis performing Black Sabbath riffs in front of a huge video backdrop but at a Cornelius show. Noel Gallagher, apparently present, could probably point out just where a Ringo-style drum roll would knit together the two sections of the lovely singalong and closer "Chapter 8", but it hardly mattered. This is great pop music.

STEPHEN JELBERT

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How tragedy made a trio

Gabor Takacs was once the leader of the successful Takacs Quartet. Now he's the violinist in the Takacs Trio. What happened? Michael Church chronicles the break-up of a musical marriage

"Let me not to the marriage of true minds/Admit impediments." If Shakespeare was eloquent on conubial problems, what would he have made of a string quartet? For unlike a rock group - where temperament is a plus - a quartet can allow no personal discord to sully its immaculate surface. Yoked in round-the-clock intimacy year after year, its members must routinely produce the sublimest form of collaborative art. Musical history is littered with the human disasters resulting from this inhuman pressure; the genesis of the Takacs Trio, who play at the Wigmore Hall on Monday, is perhaps a perfect case in point.

The Takacs Trio? You're more likely to have heard of the award-winning Takacs Quartet. And behind Gabor Takacs-Nagy's transition, from the quartet he once led to the trio he now fronts, lies the history of a wound that will never heal.

Encountering the Takacs Quartet recently, during one of their tutorial visits to the Guildhall, I extracted an account of their emergence. The original members met at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, and hatched the idea of a quartet while playing football. They struck lucky with a Communist government eager for cultural ambassadors, and eventually emigrated to Boulder, Colorado as the local university's resident quartet. But two of the four who went there were Brits; the original violinist had died of cancer, and the first leader of the quartet had quit. Why? There were difficulties; he had a hand problem... Nobody had much to say, and the matter was diplomatically dropped.

When I ask Gabor Takacs the same question a few weeks later, he is thrown into consternation. "What did the others say?" he asks anxiously. Not much, I reply. Then, taking a deep breath, he begins. "The main reason was a problem with my hand - physiological or psychological, probably both." He pauses awkwardly. "It was stress. The beginning of the Nineties, the end of socialism. I was the only one who went to the United States without a family. I was the one with the greatest nostalgia for Hungary. When Communism fell, I wanted to go back, but the boys didn't want to. They had families, and were rooted in Colorado,



When we were four: the original Takacs Quartet. 'The trio is a friendship. The quartet was a marriage'

while I was not. We had arguments.

"I was living alone in my room, and the quartet was my whole life. When I went to rehearsal, I was trembling with tension, like a Formula One car. I kept demanding more rehearsals, and I got more and more wound up. I drank hundreds of cups of coffee, and insisted on our playing a huge repertoire. There were too many concerts, and too much travelling.

"Then I developed something in my hand - like when a bad driver grabs the steering wheel: cramp. If any young player comes to me now with that symptom, I say, 'Stop completely, go to a psychologist, go to a doctor.' But I didn't stop, and my playing got worse, so that the boys never knew how I was going to play. I put them through a very difficult time. Finally I could hardly play at all, and in October 1992 we came to the decision

that it was over with me. There was no argument.

"Afterwards, very slowly, I got better, by going back to my old teacher and starting to play again from zero, with open strings, like a beginner. Two years ago, I met [the group] again for the first time - my heart was beating at 200 - but I still cannot listen to them. If you divorce somebody, and if somebody else tells you that the new husband or wife is fantastic, it feels odd. And Ed [the new leader] asked that if I were to come to one of their concerts, would I please not tell him in advance - otherwise he would find the stress too much. But how could I go? If the concert wasn't good, that would be a bad feeling for me. If it was good, that would be a bad feeling too."

Does he dream about them? "Every night! Frustrating dreams, of two different types. In one, it's the old

situation and Gabor Ormal [the violinist] is still alive - I often dream I am talking to him. In the other, it's a rehearsal and I suddenly realise Edward is playing too. Once I dream that Edward was coming to the rehearsal, so I went to a toilet and locked the door and waited there for hours, hoping that some solution would take place."

It never does. He hopes to meet them for dinner soon, when their tour brings them close to his home in Switzerland, "but I doubt if I'll listen to them perform". Meanwhile he's building a new life which ought by rights to compensate: as concertmaster of the Budapest Festival Orchestra, as head of the string-quartet department at the Geneva conservatoire, and as founder of a new trio with the pianist Denes Varjon and the cellist Peter Szabo. "Now," he says, "I can be constructive again."

Can the trio become as satisfying as the quartet once was? "That's a hard question. I have huge hopes for it - I've found top-quality colleagues, and my form is steadily improving - but the two things can't be compared.

In the quartet the first violinist is obviously a leader, whereas in a trio the violinist doesn't have so much responsibility, which is ideal for me at present." A pause, a sigh. "This trio is a friendship. But the quartet was a marriage." And the expression on the face of this eminent musician - with a career in the ascendant - says simply: "My life is blighted."

The Takacs Piano Trio are to play at the Wigmore Hall, London W1, on 26 April at 1pm. Their new CD of hitherto unrecorded works by Liszt and Szabolcs Lajtha is on the Hungaroton label.

ON THE AIR ROBERT MAYCOCK

WHAT MAKES French pianists sound French? It's easy to hear pace, lyrical clarity, a gourmand-like relish, and hard to do. If you play yourself, you'll know. All credit to Piers Lane in Wednesday's *The Piano* (Radio 3) for letting his listeners in on the trade secrets. One of this series' rare pleasures is to hear one pianist talking about others with frank enjoyment and no bitching. This time, Lane teased out the origins of what *Radio Times* billed as "The Diggy-Diggy Dee School". The nickname is the cosmopolitan French pianist Jean-Philippe Collard's unfortunate term for illustrious players of the earlier 20th century. So it ought to be spoken with a French accent, though Lane made it sound better in Australian. Anyway, the trick is to do it with your fingers. No heaving shoulders, no hiccup-driven crashes of the forearm, just a precise articulation at the point of contact with the keys. Digital skill is the way to bring out the subtle shades of colour and tone that sound so typical. There's sometimes a touch of harpsichord technique, as Lane showed from Robert Casadesu's firm, rapid way with a piece by Rameau. But if you find out the secret when you are grown-up, it's too late, since muscle habits must start early. Still time to have a Gallic child, though.

Lane began the story with Marguerite Long, who knew the turn-of-the-century piano composers and became a teacher and exemplar. Debussy told her to play as if the piano had no hammers, Fauré gave her her definitive repertoire - Long's recording of a Fauré *Barcarolle* showed a fine feeling for space, light and buoyant energy. Alfred Cortot applied the heritage of Chopin to a fleet, lucid and warm performance of Schumann's *Pavane*, without self-conscious

Germanic profundity. He was another dominant teacher: if you can play Cortot's studies, said Lane, the Chopin Etudes are a piece of cake.

The less familiar Yves Nat came in for praise. If you like your Schubert steeped in nostalgia and Viennese anguish you would hate Nat's fluent verve, but you have to recognise the flair. So too with Samson François, often dismissed as an eccentric by English critics, maybe because he used to fall asleep in the dressing room before recitals, but here delivering some even, sparkling Ravel.

Now, he said, the tradition's simplicity and clarity have been modified by German and Russian influences. He must have meant Collard, whose thunderous Rachmaninov he chose, but there was no time left to explain. Nor was there much talk about other French traits: phrasing, an eagerness to run away with climaxes, rhythm that floats freely without any need to pull the tempo around.

Still, Lane's chosen performances made the points. R3 has had a good run with musicians talking about the history of their craft: Robert Lloyd on opera was just as revealing. It isn't so hot with the ways of today. Creatures of habit who went to the Sunday-night world music slot these last two weeks must have been shocked to hear Elliott Carter's mind-bending compositions. There is a good intellectual case for presenting contemporary East Coast classical pieces as items of world music, but I don't think that's what R3 meant. Were they being provocative? Or does nobody notice at midnight? Next week it's Maxwell Davies. More world music is planned for next season, but the wait is going to feel long.

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THE INFORMATION DAILY

CINEMA · THEATRE · EXHIBITIONS · MUSIC · DANCE · LITERATURE · COMEDY · EVENTS · TV & RADIO

NEW FILMS

BESIEGED (PG, 92 mins)
Director: Bernardo Bertolucci
Starring: Thandie Newton, David Thewlis
In a startling volte-face from the epics of recent years, Bertolucci's new film, *Besieged*, confines itself principally to a cavernous Roman townhouse. It charts the festering master-servant relationship between Thewlis's highly strung concert pianist and Newton's refugee housemaid, all torrid glances and stuttering moments of communication. At once small-scale and ripe with melodrama, this is a mixed bag, but with a beautifully understated finale. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair. Repertory: The Pullman Everyman.*

THE BRYLCREEM BOYS (15, 106 mins)
Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt, stereotypes are paraded, uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. *West End: ABC Pantons Street.*

DANCE WITH ME (PG, 126 mins)
Director: Randa Haines
Starring: Vanessa Williams
Building to a predictable finale at the World Dance Championships, the clanking *Dance With Me* has its Cuban emigre hero (Chayanne) alighting in the US of A to hunt for his long-lost pop (Kris Kristofferson), while still finding time to romance Vanessa Williams's hairroom beauty. *West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas.*

8MM (18, 123 mins)
Director: Joel Schumacher
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Joaquim Phoenix
The dead hand of Hollywood politics is evident all over this would-be provocative trip through LA's porn hinterland. Nicolas Cage copes well as the private eye hired to validate what looks to be snuff-movie footage, but such scuzz requires careful handling, and Schumacher lets it take over. Frustratingly, 8mm winds up contaminated by that which it is nominally investigating. *West End: Clapham*

Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (12, 132 mins)
Director: Luis Mandoki
Starring: Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn
Kevin Costner's South Carolina boat-builder writes a love letter to his dead missus. Letter goes into bottle, bottle into sea. Lonesome lady (Robin Wright Penn) finds bottle. Complete the plot in less than 50 words. We all know where this one's headed, don't we? True love, pain of the past, a dash of redemption, and that's it, you're done. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas.*

THE MISADVENTURES OF MARGARET (15, 100 mins)
Director: Brian Skeet
Starring: Parker Posey, Jeremy Northam
Parker Posey is Margaret, a kind of Penelope Pitstop of romantic fiction. She touches down in Paris, weds Jeremy Northam's dippy Englishman, and writes an effervescent book or two in New York. Brian Skeet's film follows a screwball rhythm, over-egging the farce, tossing in bodice-ripping dramatisations and, crucially, leaving the characters under-drawn. The normally humorous Posey displays a series of self-conscious tics and twitches. *West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue.*

SIDE STREETS (15, 131 mins)
Director: Tony Gerber
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Valeria Golino
A kind of *Short Cuts* without the cut. *Side Streets* rustles up a quintet of stories from New York. Cue lively vignettes and proficient playing from a multi-national cast. The whole tapestry of New York life is dry-cleaned, lightly embroidered and unrolled for your pleasure. *West End: Plaza, Local: Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12.*

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18, 119 mins)
A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, *American History X* nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic. What binds it together is a genuine tour-de-force from Oscar-nominated Edward Norton. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Warner West End. And local cinemas.*

ARLINGTON ROAD (15, 117 mins)
Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller, sees Jeff Bridges's college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). *West End: Warner Village West End.*

AN AUTUMN TALE (U, 111 mins)
The final part of Eric Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is airy elegiac and as warm as sunshine. Magali (Beatrice Roman) - middle-aged and single - gets ushered through all manner of hoops as her friends try to set her up with eligible men. *West End: Curzon Minerva, Renoir. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre.*

BEDROOMS AND HALLWAYS (15, 96 mins)
In this latest offering from the *This Life* school of British film-making, Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner runs the romantic gamut in the run-up to his 30th birthday. *West End: ABC Piccadilly.*

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12, 111mins)
Hugh Wilson's workmanlike Cold War satire has Brendan Fraser's last American man (called Adam, natch) emerging from the nuclear bunker that his parents boled up in during the Cuban Missile Crisis. With Alicia Silverstone. *West End: Warner Village West End.*

A CIVIL ACTION (15, 115 mins)
John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and absorbing courtroom saga which nonetheless raises inevitable comparisons with Sidney Lumet's *The Verdict*. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas.*

THE FACILITY (15, 104 mins)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas.*

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15, 106 mins)
Filmed using natural light, natural sound and a hand-held camera, *Festen* begins in a rush of pure, unfeathered drama. The film's rawness is largely contrived, but by the end you're too hooked to care. *West End: ABC Pantons St, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre.*

GODS AND MONSTERS (15, 105 mins)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Metro, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas.*

HAPPINESS (18, 134 mins)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket.*

HIGH ART (18, 102 mins)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: Curzon Soho, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema.*

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG, 100 mins)
Oliver Parker's film is a proficient but mechanical overhaul of Oscar Wilde's satire of middle-class hypocrisy. The sharp dialogue is rather blunted by the snappy editing but bright playing from the cast (Rupert Everett, Cate Blanchett) helps paper over the cracks. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema. Screen on Baker Street, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas.*

PAYBACK (18, 110 mins)
Revisiting the same source novel that inspired John Boorman's *Point Blank*, this rumbling revenge thriller sends its anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to get his money and get even. *West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas.*

PLUNKETT AND MACLEANE (15, 100 mins)
Robert Carlyle, Jonny Lee Miller and Liv Ullmann star in this 18th-century romp that offers nose and pop-music visuals rather than character development. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema. And local cinemas.*

THE RED VIOLIN (15, 132 mins)
François Girard's daisy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down the centuries. Unfortunately, Girard's witty narrative leaves the film labouring in third gear throughout. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine.*

RETURN TO PARADISE (15, 106 mins)
In Joseph Ruben's long-awaited sequel, two graduate travellers return to the scene of their crimes when a buddy is busted for drugs possession in Malaysia. A classic "what would you do if?" morality play, the film still bangles its ready-made drama. *West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas.*

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15, 123 mins)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas.*

SLAM (15, 99 mins)
Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levitt's drama still carries emotional force. *West End: Ritzy Cinema.*

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG, 117 mins)
Franco Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini* ambles around the houses telling its tale of three dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench) adrift in Mussolini-era Tuscany. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys. And local cinemas.*

THE THIN RED LINE (15, 170 mins)
Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the director's chair results in a fabulous, fever-struck war film. While a cast of familiar faces vie for attention, all play a determined second fiddle to the film's creeping narcotic mood. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket.*

WAKING NED (PG, 91 mins)
A rattle-bag of comedic misadventure as two Irish scallywags scheme to get their paws on some lottery loot. *West End: Odeon West End. And local cinemas.*

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)
A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is hypnotised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Happiness (18)
Set in New Jersey, Todd Solondz's second film is a dark comedy of loneliness and sexual deviancy that reaffirms this young writer-director's talent.

High Art (18)
A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up. Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) (right) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

The Faculty (15)
Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals. Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Good (Donmar Warehouse, London)
Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production (right) by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

Making Noise Quietly (Whitehall Theatre, London)
Very welcome West End run for Deborah Bruce's lovely poetic revival of Robert Holman's sensitive, elliptical triptych about the emotional effects of war. To 22 May

Mamma Mia! (Prince Edward Theatre, London)
Designed to bring out the Dancing Queen in the straightest soul, this silly, enjoyable compilation musical finds flagrant plot excuses for 27 Abba golden oldies. Booking to 11 Sept

Volpone (Swan Theatre, Stratford)
Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. To 9 Oct

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford)
In Michael Boyd's beguiling staging, Josette Simoes' Amazonian Titania is sex-on-a-very-long-legs and could devour Tina Turner for breakfast. To 9 Oct

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)
Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Thinking Aloud (Camden Arts Centre)
Sculptor Richard Wentworth curates this curious and cheering exploration of creativity in art, design and life: an assortment of rough drafts, doodles, try-outs and models. To 30 May

Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)
Photographs 1994-98 (right): huge, high-contrast, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

Antony Gormley's 'Field' (firstsite at Roman House, Colchester)
One of the great hits of the decade: a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men - obedient, expectant, moaning, and stopping dead in a line at your feet. To 23 May

ESP (IKON Gallery, Birmingham)
Contemporary artists investigate the paranormal in this weird group show, including Susan Hill's frightening and wonderful video installation about the psychic powers of children. To 13 Jun

PAUL TAYLOR

TOM LURBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTONS STREET (0870-302 0404) • Piccadilly Circus
The Boyz 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Festive 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
The Opposite of Sex 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) • Piccadilly Circus
Bedrooms and Hallways 1pm, 3pm, 7pm
Present 1.15pm, 3.10pm, 5.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.05pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVE (0870-302 0402) • Leicester Square
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 1.55pm, 4.05pm, 6.10pm, 8.15pm, 10.20pm
The Opposite of Sex 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ABC SWISS COTTAGE (0870-302 0403) • Leicester Square
Hideoe 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Kinky 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
Prometheus 5.40pm, La Vie Revee 8.45pm, 10.45pm, 12.45pm

ABC TOTTENHAM CT RD (0870-302 0404) • Leicester Square
Road to Nowhere 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Road to Nowhere 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8881) • Moorfields/Barbican
Gods and Monsters 1.15pm, 3.40pm
An Ideal Husband 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 5742) • Chelsea Square
An Ideal Husband 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-494 3323) • Clapham Common
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-269 1723) • Green Park
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-269 1723) • Hyde Park Corner
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2225) • Green Park
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQ (0870-302 0404) • Leicester Square
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm
L'Assedio 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate
Happiness 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm
La Vita e Bella 12.40pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0870-302 0404) • Camden Town
American History X 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm
The Faculty 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 7.75pm, 9.95pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-302 0404) • Kensington
American History X 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm
The Faculty 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 7.75pm, 9.95pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-302 0404) • Marble Arch
American History X 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm
The Faculty 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 7.75pm, 9.95pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0870-302 0404) • Leicester Square
The Boyz 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0870-302 0403) • Leicester Square
Hideoe 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Kinky 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm

ODEON WEST END (0870-302 0404) • Leicester Square
Hideoe 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Kinky 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) • Piccadilly Circus
The First City in Space (3-D) 2.40pm, 7pm
The First City in Space (3-D) 2.40pm, 7pm

PLAZA (0870-302 0404) • Piccadilly Circus
Presenting 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
Savings Private Ryan 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm

RENOIR (0171-637 8402) • Russell Square
Conte d'Automne 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) • Brindley Central
Station 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm
Station 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.00pm

SCREEN ON BAKER ST (0171-433 2772) • Baker Street
Happiness 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm
La Vita e Bella 12.40pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-433 2772) • Baker Street
Happiness 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm
La Vita e Bella 12.40pm

THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-358 1003) • Kilburn
An Ideal Husband 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0870-302 0404) • Bayswater
A Bug's Life 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.00pm, 9.10pm
A Bug's Life 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.00pm, 9.10pm

VIRGIN CHelsea (0870-302 0404) • Chelsea Square
An Ideal Husband 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-302 0404) • South Kensington
An Ideal Husband 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-302 0404) • Piccadilly Circus
Happiness 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm
La Vita e Bella 12.40pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-302 0404) • Piccadilly Circus
Happiness 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm
La Vita e Bella 12.40pm

Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm, 2.45pm, 4.55pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm
The Faculty 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 7.75pm, 9.95pm

WARNER WEST END (0171-437 4343) • Leicester Square
Hideoe 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
Kinky 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0171-437 4343) • Leicester Square
Hideoe 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm
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Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm, 2.45pm, 4.55pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm
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WARNER VILLAGE (0171-437 4343) • Leicester Square
Hideoe 1.15pm, 3.35pm,

research on the way that New Labour has subsidised advertising techniques for substantial policy. On Tuesday night, Stephen Bayley, former creative director of the Millennium Dome, was effective on the waxiness of the word "New". Itself, it reasoned disconcertingly, it's the need for re-branding internet whiff clips from adverts for products such as "New Toilet Duck". But more dispiriting than this was last night's programme, in which on over people's opinions much on new people's opinions and neglects something important. "It's called innovation, passion, creativity, innovation, disrespect for the mundane," Beattie suggested that people might think that, as an adman himself, he would be in favour of focus groups; in fact, he said, he hates them. Actually I don't think being in advertising should stop Beattie complaining about focus groups. But I do think it should stop him pre-

which the comedian Donno McPheail seized on the phrase "Bair's Babes" to the fair, a label of coinage rather than a New Labour catchphrase), as the starting point for her complaint that leaving more women in Government hasn't made a substantial change to the way politics is carried out. The force of the grievance was dulled by McPheail's delivery – even if you didn't know she was a comedian, you could have guessed from the way she shouted and gesticulated emphatically under the discussion, common among stand-ups, that the odd incomes funny if you say it loud enough. But the odd thing was the realisation that McPheail had swallowed the advertising in the first place: a party which for some years had been widely praised for its post-feministism of its campaigning

returning to be an enduring one: moral importance, of conviction and creativity, which in the world of over-talking are nothing more than facilities to be put at the client's disposal.

Arreya (BBC), meanwhile, was devoted to Salman Rushdie, one of those rare advertising men who pulled the novel out of the top drawer and got it published. As it turned out, Rushdie's interview was little more than a PR puff for his latest work, and it didn't gain much in the way of critical weight from a guest appearance by Donno. But there was a sense of euphoria behind the programme – the happiness not simply of a man who's just received a batch of favourable reviews, but of a man who no longer has consistently to look over his shoulder – that made the puffery easier to bear.

8 specially selected episodes presented by
Cliff the mallman, Saturday's and Sunday's, 9-11pm
on the Paramount Comedy Channel

Channel 5
00 8 News and Sport (S) (5498781),

1.45 McMillan and Wills. It's Halloween craz the 1970
married deuces 2045556569.

3.45 FLM Sweet November (Robert Ellis Miller 1981)
7.38 (T) 23553897, 4372 Mikeland (S) (2142520)
7.39 (S) 3460148, 6200 HavaKava (S)
(S) 455701, 8.30 Deppeadown Farm (H) (S) 433444747
(S) 455701, 8.30 Deppeadown Farm (H) (S) 433444747
8.00 The Roseanne Show (S) (505648), 9.45 The
and the Beaulieu (S) (7126562), 10.20 Sunset B
(S) (T) 8758323, 11.10 Lara (S) (3420568), 12.00
(S) (T) 8758323, 11.10 Lara (S) (3420568), 12.00
News at Noon (S) (T) 8355558, 12.30 Family Affair
(S) (T) (T) 87087, 1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
(4623149).

US), Anthony Newley, who died last week, co-stars in the new comedy drama in which Newley plays Sandy Derrine. In this "loopy" comedy drama, Sandy Derrine is a kind soul who shares her apartment with a different harem man each month. Come November she finds herself in love with Newley (#8878304).

5:40 9 News Including Flat on Five (S) (T) (#97676-7)
5:50 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S) (#8430352).

6:00 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (#8400885)

6.30 Family Affairs. Day is worried about the tremor his hand (S) (T) (653217).

7.00 In the Net. Just what the world needs now – a football preview show. Steve Scott is joined by Jonny Pearce and a guest analyst (265010).

7.30 Aussie Birds. Australia's birds of prey, including wedge-tailed eagle, the little eagle and the black-breasted buzzard (S) (T) (653010).

8.00 Here Be Dragons. More wildlife studies – this time on crocodiles (\$64.95).

ecidism or thrill (T) (23042120).

1.30 FILM *Lady against the Odds* (Bradford Mast 1992 *FILM*) Reno film not startling Annabeth Gish as female private eye in 1940s Los Angeles (S) 7244

3.15 FILM *The Love Goddesses* (Stan J. Turell 1966 *FILM*) Graeme Ferguson 1966 US. Compilation of clips featuring Hollywood sex bombs (S557952). To 4.35am.

TELEVISION CLOSING: my GEMINI 10

FILM OF THE DAY

